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EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATRIUM OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, BETHLEHEM

OUR knowledge of the plan and extent of the atrium that gave access to Constantine's basilica at Bethlehem, and of its subsequent modifications has hitherto been restricted to such vestiges of early work as can still be detected in the modern courtyard, to inference from the proportions of the basilica itself, and to a few references in medieval and later writers, of which the following is a summary.

In the fourteenth century we are informed that the church was fortified with towers and outworks like a castle.¹ A century later, 1480-3, Felix Fabri writes:

'In the meantime', i.e. during the Crusaders' occupation, 'the Christians had fortified towns and castles, and more especially had they strengthened Jerusalem and Bethlehem against the infidels with walls and towers. In those times holy Bethlehem was full of people—famous and rich. Christians from every country on earth brought presents thither and exceeding rich merchants dwelt there. Wherefore at this day there are vaulted colonnades in front of the churches beneath which the shops of the merchants used to stand.'²

In the year 1609 Bernardino Amico, a Franciscan father, published a series of plans and drawings of Holy Places including the basilica and parvis of Bethlehem as it then stood. A photograph of his plan is reproduced on page 2. The plan is accompanied by the following explanatory text.

'Number 1 is the gate of the construction: the porch (sopportico) is 20 palms 3 inches long by 14 wide. 2 is the courtyard. It has not been measured all over, but only the part enclosed by lines, which contains in it three cisterns indicated by the number 4. It is 115 palms 3 inches long by 79 palms 3 inches wide. Of the spaces between the lines, indicated by the sign X, the first is toward the north, the second on the east: judging by the visible traces, they must, in my opinion, have been covered colonnades for thoroughfare: the one is 20½ palms wide, the other 13.'³

Quaresmius, writing at the same period, speaks of

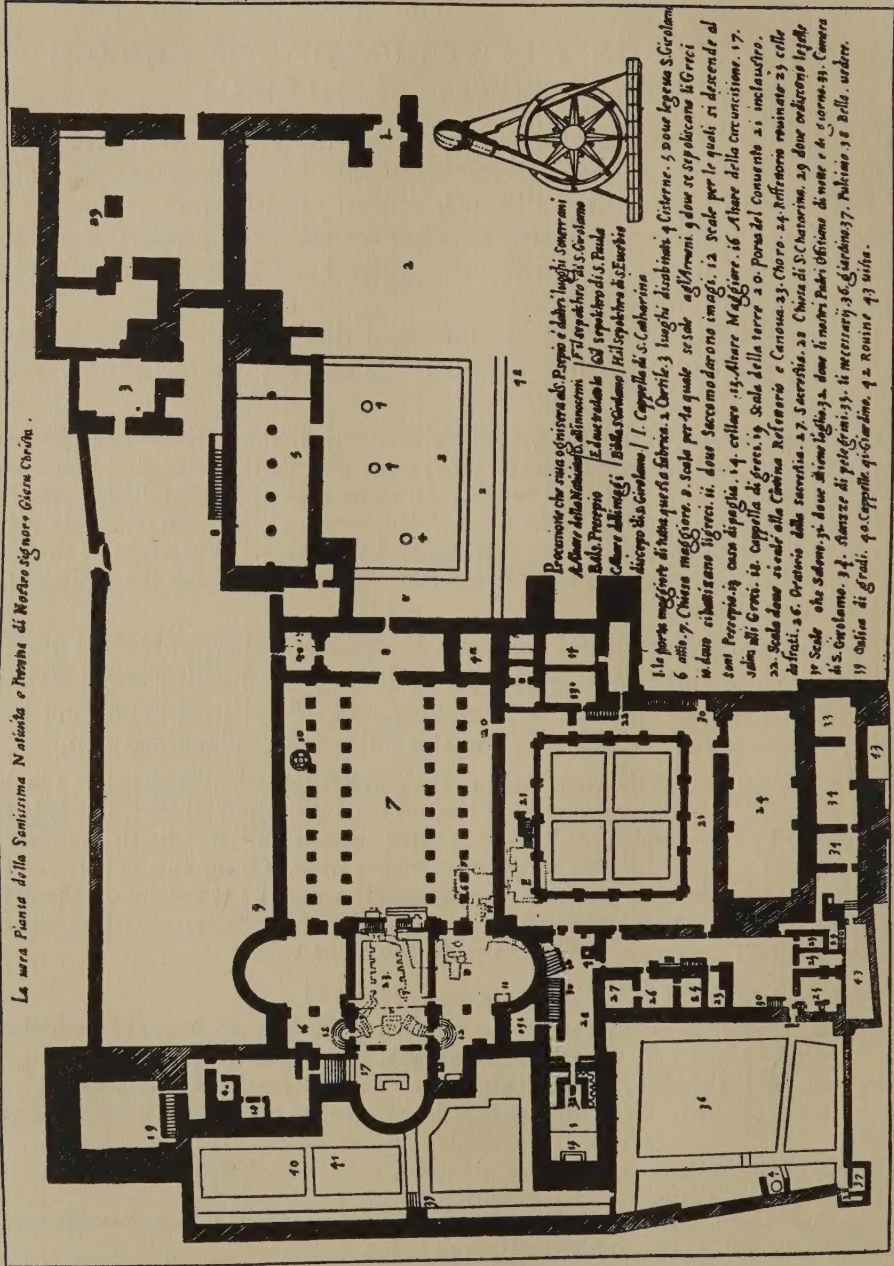
'a large court which is before the greater Church of the Blessed Mary of Bethlehem. This is entirely paved with squared marble slabs. On its eastern [*sic*] side is the gate, on the west [*sic*] is the façade of the church with another narrow door by which the church itself is entered: this was at one time large. On the north was a great colonnade

¹ Ludolph von Suchem, A.D. 1350. Palestine Pilgrim Texts Society's Vol. XII, pp. 93 f.

² Palestine Pilgrim Texts Society's Vol. VIII, p. 592.

³ Bernardino Amico, *Trattato delle Piante & Immagini de Sacri Edifizi di Terra Santa*, p. 1. The palm is approximately 23 cm. It is divided into 12 inches.

La vera Pianta della Santissima Natività e Pigna di Nostro signore Gesù Christo.



PLAN OF BASILICA AND ADJACENT BUILDINGS BY BERNARDINO AMICO.

EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATRIUM, CHURCH OF NATIVITY, BETHLEHEM

supported by fair and shining columns of red marble, as the surviving bases declare, and other buildings besides, whose ruins and foundations prove their excellence and magnitude. On the south is the school of St. Jerome, of which more anon, and other buildings which the Armenians have restored. The court can be entered from every side except the aforementioned south and east. In this courtyard there are 3 abundant cisterns of water from which strangers and Bethlehemites come to draw. . . . At present two are open not far from the door of the church; the third, nearest the door of the courtyard on the right as you come in, is closed.¹

To the scanty evidence supplied by these literary sources, all subsequent to the Crusades, may be added the little that can be inferred from visible features of the present courtyard.

The original width of the atrium has been considerably reduced since the Byzantine period by encroachment of the Armenian convent from the south. The north wall of this building presents on plan a series of angular projections—the alignment of the wall advancing by four successive stages as it approaches the façade of the church (Pl. I). The existence of these projections, with the probability that the Armenian builders would, where possible, utilize pre-existing foundations, suggested from the first a western limit to the atrium at about the middle of the modern courtyard. Subsequent excavation has confirmed the suggestion.

A hint in the same sense could be gleaned from examination of the modern pavement which, though mainly composed of rubble and re-used building stones, contained also traces of a line of heavy slabs 30 cm. thick, extending in front of and parallel to the façade of the church from a point where a small buttress is applied to the wall of the Armenian building as far north as the axis of the northern range of columns within the basilica. Here the line turned west and passed with interruptions along the northern edge of the courtyard. After continuing for 26 metres in this direction it ended in a large slab projecting 30 cm. southward from its edge. This line, which corresponds with the innermost of those marked by Bernardino, also indicated an atrium occupying only the eastern half of the present courtyard. Against this, however, there was good local evidence that an ancient wall of dressed masonry existed some 30 metres further west, where a section of it had been seen and subsequently demolished before the war. This, too, required investigation.

The known facts, then, so far amounted to little more than the existence in the eastern half of the court of a cloister, which was attributed by Felix Fabri to the Crusaders. Of the western half little is recorded except that in the

¹ Quaresmius, *Elucidatio Terrae Sanctae*, Vol. II, p. 622.

seventeenth century the whole was paved with 'marble' slabs. It also contained a cistern, a massive gateway, and part of a correspondingly solid western wall.

In the hope of supplementing these facts and relating them to the earlier history of the church a series of excavations, made possible by a recent decision to repave the courtyard, was carried out, as opportunity offered in the course of that work, between the months of May and August 1932.

The plan reproduced on Pl. VII shows the present state of the courtyard and the areas in which clearances were made.

Work in the eastern half of the court soon established the existence of a quadrangular construction closely following the lines drawn in Bernardino's plan. The heavy slabs visible in the modern paving were found to rest on a thick bedding of mortar laid on the inner of two concentric foundation walls enclosing a rectangular area 18.00×26.30 m. The southern side of the rectangle is hidden by the Armenian convent. Its outer wall on the north side prolongs the line of the north wall of the basilica. A section of its outer face was cleared to a depth of 4.50 m. from the present surface. The wall, which is 70 cm. thick, is of limestone (*meleki*) carefully coursed and bonded, two stretchers alternating with a header. The masonry of the two uppermost courses is dressed with a comb-pick, but lower down it has a rough chiselled surface. The courses are in general 41 cm. in height, but increase toward the foot of the wall—the lowest visible course being 60 cm. high. The stretchers average 72 cm. in length: headers vary from 26 to 36 cm. At the foot of the wall is a series of water troughs or mangers built against its outer face: a row of tethering holes is bored in the masonry above them at 50 cm. intervals. Assuming the original ground level to be about 1 metre lower—the total height of the wall from there to the present surface is well over 5 metres. Its western extension into the cemetery could not be followed, but clearances in the centre of the court laid bare parts of a wall of similar workmanship and dimensions (courses 36, 42, 42, 42 cm. high in the centre) forming the western boundary of the quadrangle. The dressing of the upper courses (Pl. II, 2) is indistinguishable from that employed in the masonry of the basilica, but the lower ones are left rough (Pl. III, 1). The coursing of this section of the wall is not absolutely regular, nor is the level at which the rough dressing replaces the smooth constant.

The inner wall of the quadrangle is composed mainly of the rough dressed masonry: a few smooth comb-dressed stones are, however, incorporated. The thickness of the wall is 75 cm.: the average height of courses 41 cm. In the centre of the court 7 courses were seen, the lowest of which rested on rock (Pl. III, 2). On this foundation were laid the hard limestone slabs already

EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATRIUM, CHURCH OF NATIVITY, BETHLEHEM referred to, which doubtless formed the stylobate of a colonnade. De Vogüé's plan shows three column bases still in position upon it. These have since then been removed and can now be seen resting by the door of the church.

Two large cisterns exist in this half of the court. A cement-lined and stone-covered channel, which passes through the two walls just described near the centre of their western sides, is probably connected with the easternmost. Its approximate course is shown on the plan.

The only trace of a pavement corresponding in level with these foundations is a hard layer of stone chips some 40 cm. below the top of the stylobate. In the western half of the court, however, extensive fragments of a limestone pavement, extending from the extreme western end to within 70 cm. of the quadrangle wall, survive from 30 to 100 cm. below the level of the modern paving (Pl. II, 1).

Here, too, the main features of Bernardino's drawing are confirmed. The massive gateway with its inner corridor (Pls. II, 1, and IV, 1) and the formidable western wall flanking it to the south can still be traced in the ponderous foundations of irregular blocks which break into the western side of the pavement and are prolonged to the south in a dry wall of which the buttress at the corner of the Armenian building marks the position.

Examination of the paving stones shows that at the time of their installation the western half of the court was treated as a self-contained unit. It comprised a central area, approximately 18 m. square, surrounded by 4 alleys 3.50 m. across and separated from the central square by a row of slightly raised slabs 70 cm. wide; these rest on a rough foundation of re-used stones, carelessly put together, but sufficiently compact to postulate some structural function, such as the support of a light colonnade (Pl. VI, 1 and 2). This could not have existed after the construction of the gateway.

It was at first assumed, on the discovery of this pavement, that it might belong to the original Constantinian atrium, but as the work proceeded this became increasingly improbable, both from the character of masonry found below the pavement (note, e.g., the drafted and diagonally dressed stone immediately below the metre scale in Pl. VI, 2), from the presence immediately upon it of twelfth century and later coins (this was, of course, not decisive), and finally from the discovery some weeks later of part of a second pavement one metre lower down in the centre of the court (Pl. VI, 1, showing (*a*) ground level after removal of modern paving, (*b*) fragment of upper pavement, (*c*) rough stylobate foundation resting on lower pavement).

The existence of this lower pavement, which is composed of hard limestone slabs, 20 cm. thick, laid in courses across the long axis of the courtyard,

could only be verified in the centre of the court. Here its relation to the walls of the quadrangle and to the water channel that passes through them (see Plan and Section) leaves no doubt that it antedates these constructions, and that in carrying their foundations down to the rock the builders of the latter encountered and were compelled to lift at least two courses of a pre-existing and abandoned pavement. Its original extent is unknown, but in the two easternmost trenches where it was found it is bounded on the north by a longitudinal line of slabs at a slightly lower level, beyond which no traces of any extension of the pavement survive (Pl. III, 2, and IV, 2). The earth here, however, and in all the area to the north, shows every sign of disturbance in comparatively recent times—the filling yielding fragments of late medieval painted and plain pottery, as well as clay pipe bowls and other sherds of modern appearance. The row of slabs bordering the pavement rests on a rubble foundation and itself appears to be of recent origin. It is worth noting, however, that the edge of the pavement itself, which is certainly original, aligns with the inner northern range of columns in the basilica.

The discovery of a pavement antedating the rectangular foundations in the eastern half of the court and extending across and beyond their limits to the west, indicated the existence of an earlier construction embracing in plan both halves of the courtyard and adapted to a ground level a metre or more lower than that of the present church floor. Traces of such a structure were found in the south-western quarter of the courtyard. Pl. V, 1, taken on the south side of the courtyard, looking east, shows on the right-hand side the end of a masonry wall, 70 cm. thick, projecting westwards from below one of the buttresses that support the wall of the Armenian convent. This wall is built of comb-dressed masonry exactly similar to that used in the eastern half of the court: the three surviving courses, each 39.5 cm. high, rest on a line of hard limestone slabs, laid on a rough foundation of mixed material. As can be seen from the plan, the wall aligns with the southern wall of the basilica, and a section of it has been demolished to allow the completion of the outer west wall of the eastern quadrangle, with which it has no structural connexion.

Three and a half metres further north, on a parallel line, is a carefully jointed foundation wall of soft limestone (*nari*) masonry, dressed, pointed, and laid in two courses 46 and 39 cm. high respectively. The longest measured block in the wall is over 1.30 m. in length: a binding stone adjacent to it measures 34 cm. For the greater part of its length the foundation is bedded in a trench cut in the rock, but towards the east, where the rock-level falls, it rests on a footing of rough limestone blocks (Pl. V, 2).

EXCAVATIONS IN THE ATRIUM, CHURCH OF NATIVITY, BETHLEHEM

The wall was traced westward to the end of the parvis where it passes beneath the medieval west wall. To the east it is severed by the crosswalls in the centre of the court.

The top of this foundation is 8 cm. higher than the level of the lower pavement. If we assume a rise in the level of the paving toward the sides of the atrium, this would be consistent with the wall having served as the foundation of a colonnade related to the pavement. The colonnade would have extended the full length of the present courtyard and would have enclosed a paved area 17.50 m. wide, the surface of which, sloping gradually upwards toward the east, would at that end have been rather less than 1 m. lower than the floor of the church. What arrangement was adopted to surmount this difference in level, or what was the level of the surrounding colonnades, there is at present no evidence to tell. It is conceivable that the original scheme embodied a sunk court surrounded by raised colonnades, which retained their original level throughout the history of the atrium.

The existence of the modern roadway and of the medieval structures beside it restricted the possibility of exploring the western end and entrance of this atrium. A sounding in the south-west corner of the cemetery, however, proved the existence of a west wall of rough chisel-finished masonry similar to that seen in the north-east corner of the courtyard. This wall was cleared to a depth of over 6 metres from the level of the court, at which point the excavation became dangerous: the ground here slopes rapidly away to the north. Portions of the same wall seen near the entrance to the parvis at a much higher level were of the comb-dressed style of masonry.

Leaving aside the question of a porch or vestibule before the atrium, the primitive plan seems to have involved a paved court of abnormally elongated proportions—perhaps nearly 4 : 1—surrounded by colonnades whose foundations, at least where the rock was close, were of soft but carefully laid limestone. Elsewhere the walls were of harder stone, dressed, where visible or conspicuous, in the same style as the masonry of the basilica. The pavement of this court was low enough to require the presence of steps leading up to the level of the church. These have not yet been found: the natural place to look for them would be below the clumsy Turkish buttress that now supports the front of the church.

The present façade, with the narthex, is generally attributed to a radical reorganization of the church by Justinian. It would be reasonable to associate the reduced atrium with the same period of construction. The dimensions of the courtyard now presented the more normal proportion of 3 : 2. The abandonment of the western end of the old atrium liberated an ample supply

R. W. HAMILTON

of dressed stone for the construction of such new walls and foundations as were required, and signs of such re-use are not wanting in the sections of these walls that have been cleared. A pavement level approximating to that of the church was simultaneously adopted.

The repaving of the western half of the court, and the erection of whatever colonnades may have stood there, must have come later; the poor quality of the foundations below them—unlike those in the eastern colonnade they are not carried down to the rock—precludes us from attributing them to the same builders. Coins found in conjunction with the pavement were either unrecognizable or in indecisive positions. They include a Roman coin of the first century A.D., a coin of the Constantinian period, three gold dinars of the early twelfth century, an early Ayyubid, and a Mamluk coin of the early fourteenth century. All these were found close above the pavement.

Later still were built the great defensive works and gateway at the west end of the courtyard, which the anxieties that harassed the Christian community in the centuries after the Crusades, are sufficient to explain. The same period, perhaps, saw the destruction of the earlier colonnades, of which Bernardino records hardly more traces than are visible to-day. The demolition was complete, but the rough ends of bonding stones where the north wall of the atrium joined the façade of the church, the inconspicuous springing of an arch close to the cornice of the northern door, and, questionably, a horizontal groove, now filled with cement and rubble, that perhaps once held the timbers of the roof, still remain in the façade as visible testimony to the colonnade that once protected it.

R. W. HAMILTON.



BETHLEHEM. THE COURTYARD TO-DAY, AFTER REPAIRING



FIG. 1. BETHLEHEM. MEDIEVAL PAVEMENT AND GATEHOUSE. LOOKING WEST



FIG. 2. BETHLEHEM. COMB-PICKED MASONRY AT
WEST END OF THE REDUCED ATRIUM



FIG. 1. BETHLEHEM. WEST WALL OF
JUSTINIAN'S ATRIUM. EAST FACE
AT SOUTH END



FIG. 2. BETHLEHEM. FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTINIAN'S COLON-
NADE IN CENTRE OF MODERN COURT. EARLIER PAVEMENT
VISIBLE ON RIGHT FOREGROUND



FIG. 1. BETHLEHEM. MEDIEVAL ENTRANCE. LOOKING WEST



FIG. 2. BETHLEHEM. NORTH EDGE OF CONSTANTINIAN PAVEMENT IN
CENTRE OF THE COURTYARD. LOOKING SOUTH-WEST



FIG. 1. BETHLEHEM. MEDIEVAL PAVEMENT IN MIDDLE OF THE SOUTH SIDE. END OF CONSTANTINIAN WALL VISIBLE TO THE RIGHT BENEATH CORNER OF ARMENIAN BUILDING. LOOKING EAST

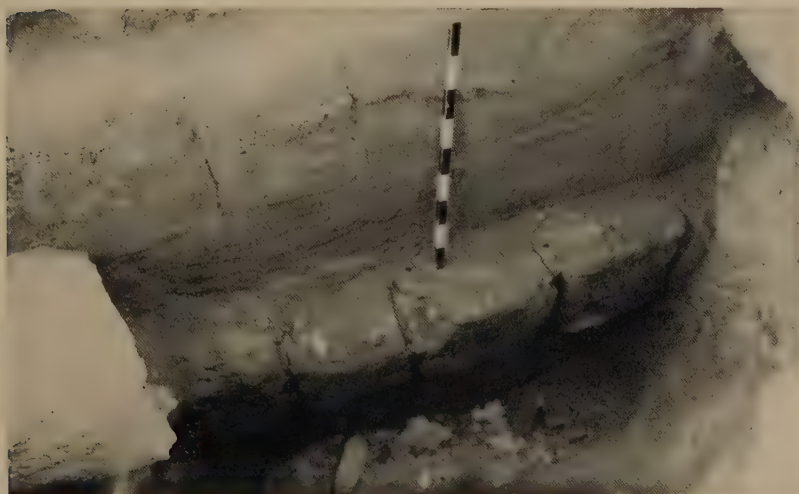


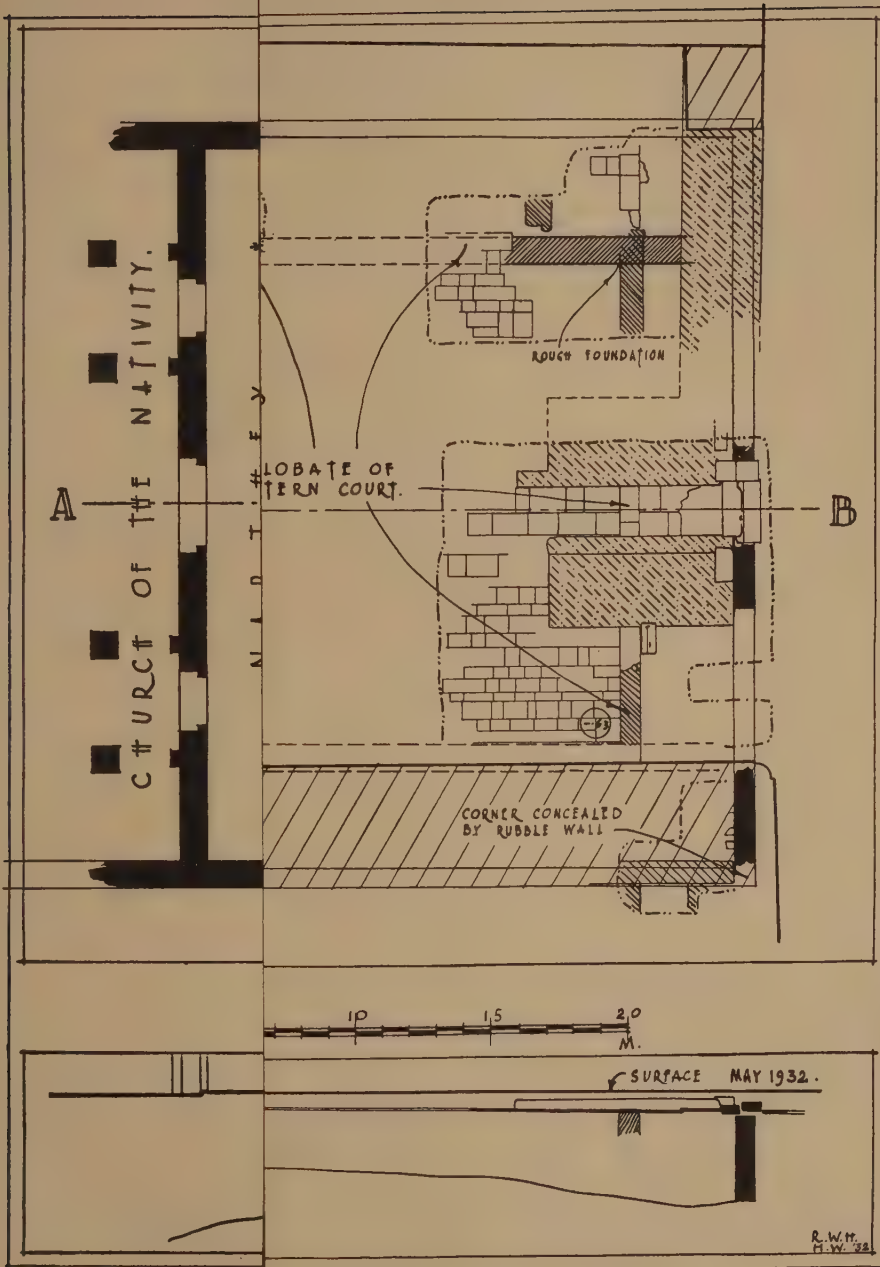
FIG. 2. BETHLEHEM. SOFT LIMESTONE FOUNDATION OF ORIGINAL COLONNADE. SOUTH SIDE OF COURT



FIG. 1. BETHLEHEM. CONSTANTINIAN PAVEMENT, WITH
MEDIEVAL WORK SUPERIMPOSED. CENTRE OF COURT LOOK-
ING SOUTH-WEST



FIG. 2. BETHLEHEM. NORTH-WEST CORNER
OF MEDIEVAL PAVEMENT. MODERN CEME-
TERY WALL ON LEFT. LOOKING EAST



ROCK-CUT TOMB AT TARSHĪHĀ

Late IV cent. A.D.

AT Tarshīhā village, near Acre, in August 1931, a rock-cut tomb consisting of a vestibule and four loculi was cleared by Na'im Eff. Makhoul, Inspector in this Department. The tomb was discovered during the excavation of a cistern by the owner of the land; it is situated about 100 metres due west of the Greek Orthodox Church.

From the accompanying plan it will be seen that the door of the tomb, which is nearly square, faces north. Of the four loculi two are in the south wall opposite the entrance, and lie north and south, their ends thus giving on to the vestibule; the remaining two are situated one in the east and one in the west wall; as they also lie north and south their sides give on to the vestibule. Inside the entrance is a high step cut in the rock, and in the north wall, to the right on entering, a niche is cut.

A remark on one or two of the more interesting objects:

No. 16 from the vestibule gives a useful definite date for the type of ring with recessed pyramidal bezel. One in the British Museum¹ is called Lombardic and provisionally dated to the seventh century, with a reference to its late Roman or Byzantine characteristics. Nos. 846, 975, and 976 in the *Brit. Mus. Cat. Finger Rings: Greek, Etruscan and Roman* are of a similar type, and may be usefully compared with the present dated example. The inscription on the ring-fragment No. 8, ΚΕΘΟ ΖΑΧΑΡΙΑΣ (Κύριε βοήθει Ζαχαρίας), conforms to a well-known type, for which cf. *Brit. Mus. Cat. Finger Rings: Early Christian*, &c., Nos. 57-67. Glass vessels are not figured, as they are mostly broken; the shape is usually indicated by quoting a parallel.

The tomb contained 78 coins, mostly badly corroded. The great majority, however, clearly belonged to the fourth century A.D. Of those decipherable, the latest was a coin of Arcadius, from Loculus 3. The earliest (evidently a survival) was a second or third century *As* pierced for suspension, as an ornament probably; it also came from Loculus 3. There were several of Maximian and Diocletian. Maxentius was also represented. A considerable number were House of Theodosius. Thus the tomb is to be dated to about the last decade of the fourth century. There seems no possibility of differentiation between loculi, since Loculus 3 yielded both the earliest (II-III cent. *As*) and latest (Arcadius) coins found.

¹ *Cat. Finger Rings: Early Christian, Medieval and later*, 176 a.



ACRE SUB DISTRICT
TARSHIHA VILLAGE
ROMAN TOMB



ROCK-CUT TOMB AT TARSHĪHĀ

The tomb as a whole contains nothing very novel; but a number of such groups of fourth- or fifth-century material is obviously desirable for students of a rather neglected period. A good parallel is to be found in some of the Byzantine tombs recently excavated at Beisan, where glass vessels were especially plentiful (*P.E.F.Q.S.*, 1932, pp. 147-8).

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Vestibule.

- *1. Flat amber-coloured glass amulet for suspension, stamped with figure of animal (? lion) in relief to l., with long curving raised tail. Star and crescent above. Length 0.022 m. Mus. Cat. 31.251. Pl. VIII, 4.
- *2. Conical amulet of grey steatite, pierced for suspension. On under side, in intaglio, star and two concentric crescents. Ht. 0.018 m. Mus. Cat. 31.242. Pl. VIII, 9.
- *3. Thin bronze ring with flat, circular bezel; design of flying Cupid and sea-serpent in intaglio.² Mus. Cat. 31.246. Pl. VIII, 11.
- 4. Upper part of bone pin; irregular hexagonal head surmounted by small flat cap. Mus. Cat. 31.248.
- 5. Bone pin; point missing. Pointed oval head, with incised grooves around. Mus. Cat. 31.247.
- 6. Upper part of bone pin. Pointed head. Mus. Cat. 31.249.
- *7. Fragment of bronze ring. On flat bezel remains of inscription: ΚΕ ΒΟ ΖΑΧΑΡΙΑΣ, i.e., Κύριε βοήθει Ζαχαρίας (*O Lord, aid Zacharias*). Mus. Cat. 31.258. Pl. VIII, 8.
- 8. Pair of plano-convex bronze ear-rings. Mus. Cat. 31.255. Cf. Loculus 4, 5.
- 9. Group of 88 mixed beads (incl. one bead-spreader). Of many shapes and sizes, from tiny blue or slate-coloured nodules to large, coarse vitreous lumps. Mus. Cat. 31.252.
- 10. Bronze spatula (ear-pick or unguent-spoon). Length 0.105 m. Mus. Cat. 31.243.
- 11. Straight iron rod, broken at either end. Length 0.127 m. Mus. Cat. 31.245.
- 12. Bronze buckle. Decoration of three raised circles at one side. Pin broken away. Overall length 0.029 m. Mus. Cat. 31.259.
- 13. Bronze buckle. Similar to No. 13, but head square instead of rounded. Overall length 0.028 m. Mus. Cat. 31.260.

¹ Objects indicated by an asterisk are figured in the plates.

² In the photograph, Pl. VIII, 11, the top of the impression is to the l.

14. Bronze wire bracelet; broken and bent. Coiled into spiral near fracture. Shorter axis (at present) *c.* 0.050 m. Mus. Cat. 31.244.
- *15. Bronze finger ring, slightly elliptical, with high bezel of pyramidal shape in four steps; the bezel is decorated with a six-point star incised. Facetted on shoulder, which has a leaf design, also incised. Sharply angular below shoulder. Diam. (external) 0.025 m.; (internal) 0.019 m. Mus. Cat. 31.250. Pl. VIII, 7.
16. Small bronze spatula (?) bent into a ring. Mus. Cat. 31.253.
17. Pair of bronze bells of different sizes. The larger still has its clapper. Diam. of larger 0.028 m.; of smaller 0.02 m. Mus. Cat. 31.256.
- *18. Fragment of lead openwork decoration. An applied object of flat, circular shape is indicated. Mus. Cat. 31.257. Pl. VIII, 15.
19. Fragment of bronze chain with figure-of-eight links. Mus. Cat. 31.254.

Loculus 1.

- *1-5. Five flat amber-coloured glass amulets for suspension, each stamped with a lion standing to right. Over his back a star and two crescents, a larger and a smaller. Part of one string or necklace. Average diam. *c.* 0.018 m. Mus. Cat. 31.286. One specimen is figured in Pl. VIII, 2.
- *6. Flat amulet of greenish glass for suspension. Stamped in relief with tortoise seen from above. Average diam. *c.* 0.02 m. Mus. Cat. 31.286 *a.* Pl. VIII, 3.
- *7. Flat amulet of greenish glass for suspension. Stamped in relief with the seven-branched candlestick. Portion at lower left missing. Diam. 0.017 m. Mus. Cat. 31.286 *b.* Pl. VIII, 1.
8. Bronze spoon; broken. Long, thin scoop, mostly missing. Fine, straight handle. Remaining length 0.071 m. Mus. Cat. 31.279.
9. Upper part of bone pin; head consists of bead of oblate spheroid form. Length existing 0.067 m. Mus. Cat. 31.263.
10. Green glass ring; hoop rounded on outer side. Diam. 0.025 m. Mus. Cat. 31.262.
11. Upper part of bone pin. Head barrel-shaped. Length existing 0.034 m. Mus. Cat. 31.268.
12. Glass spatula (? ear-pick); rod handle, spirally fluted. Existing length 0.113 m. Broken in two pieces. Mus. Cat. 31.264.
- *13. Iron pick-axe (pioneer's axe). Length 0.22 m. along upper edge. The tool is light and the pick end is long. Mus. Cat. 31.261. Pl. VIII, 14.
14. Iron wire bracelet. Diam. 0.06 m. Mus. Cat. 31.282.
15. Small flat iron pendant. Ht. 0.045 m. Mus. Cat. 31.281.

ROCK-CUT TOMB AT TARSHĪHĀ

16. Low conical whorl or loom weight of greyish limestone. Diam. 0.024 m. Mus. Cat. 31.267.
17. Low round-topped whorl or loom weight of greyish limestone. Diam. 0.024 m. Mus. Cat. 31.266.
18. Four tiny bronze dome-shaped bells; clapper missing. Diam. (max.) 0.021 m. Mus. Cat. 31.280.
19. Bronze conical bell with vertical loop handle above; clapper missing, but its attachment remains. Diam. 0.021 m. Mus. Cat. 31.276.
20. Fragment of bronze ring, with flat, raised bezel, on which intaglio design damaged and unrecognizable. Diam. of bezel 0.012 m. Mus. Cat. 31.277.
21. Fragment of twisted iron wire, part of appliqué ornament, *c.* 0.046 m. overall. Mus. Cat. 31.284.
22. Glass pinhead; amber-coloured. In form of fluted bead with flat cap. Mus. Cat. 31.352.
23. Group of 108 beads and 11 bead-spreaders. The shapes and materials are many, including barrel-shaped (fat and slender), tubular or cylindrical (various sizes), hexagonal, square, flat, rounded, and ringform. The material is mostly blue, green, or colourless glass or glass paste, with two of creamy clay (rounded type). The bead-spreaders are all of amber-coloured glass. Two beads of opaque blue glass resemble in shape a torpedo or cigar suspended by a loop above. Mus. Cat. 31.285.
- *24. Bronze bell; clapper missing. The loop for suspending the clapper is fastened through a hole at one side in the top of the bell. Ht. 0.04 m. Mus. Cat. 31.274. Pl. VIII, 13.
- *25. Bronze bell; no clapper. Ht. 0.034 m. Mus. Cat. 31.275. Pl. VIII, 12.
26. Iron wire bracelet, with knobbed ends. Diam. *c.* 0.045 m. Mus. Cat. 31.283.
27. Fine bronze bracelet of flattened wire. Diam. *c.* 0.045 m. Mus. Cat. 31.273.
28. Bronze wire bracelet, originally looped around at joint; now broken. Length of axes now *c.* 0.085 m. and 0.07 m. Mus. Cat. 31.272.
29. Bronze bracelet of flattened wire. The ends looped around to make joint. Axes now *c.* 0.08 m. and 0.062 m. Mus. Cat. 31.271.
30. Bronze bracelet of square section, two opposite angles being in the plane of the bracelet. Diam. 0.07 m. Mus. Cat. 31.270.
31. Bronze bracelet. One end hammered into flat, rectangular piece, decorated with incised lines and circles. Diam. 0.077 m. Mus. Cat. 31.269.
32. Thin bronze ring of square section. Diam. 0.024 m. Mus. Cat. 31.278.

33. Long tubular glass bottle, with swelling in the middle. Top and bottom broken away. Existing ht. 0.12 m. Mus. Cat. 31.265.

Loculus 2.

1. Tall bulbous glass flask with cylindrical neck, slightly flaring outwards to top. Two small handles at base of neck. Hollow base. Broken into fragments. Orig. ht. c. 0.22 m. Type of *Cat. Général du Musée du Caire, Graeco-Egyptian Glass*, No. 32.555. Mus. Cat. 31.302.
- 2, 3, 4. Fragments of three long tubular bottles, swelling slightly at lower end, narrowest at middle. Existing ht. 0.095 m., 0.07 m., and 0.056 m. Mus. Cat. 31.313.
5. Black glass bracelet. Diam. 0.05 m. Mus. Cat. 31.306.
6. Bronze ring. Two grooves around outside. Diam. 0.024 m. Mus. Cat. 31.307.
7. Bone pin. Bud-shaped head. Length 0.083 m. Mus. Cat. 31.304.
8. Iron nail or bolt (?). Length 0.104 m. Mus. Cat. 31.314.
- *9. Ear-ring of bronze and torpedo-shaped pendant of blue stone. Overall length 0.027 m. Mus. Cat. 31.310. Pl. VIII, 10.
10. Small bronze wire bracelet; broken. c. 0.041 x 0.035 m. Mus. Cat. 31.311.
11. Bronze wire bracelet; broken. Ends looped around to make joint. 0.078 x 0.07 m. Mus. Cat. 31.305.
12. Fragment of bronze bell. Diam. 0.02 m. Mus. Cat. 31.312.
13. Whorl of blue-black vitreous clay. Diam. 0.022 m. Mus. Cat. 31.309.
14. Whorl of black stone. Diam. 0.024 m. Mus. Cat. 31.308.
15. Conical whorl of greyish-black stone. Diam. 0.017 m. Mus. Cat. 31.303.
16. Group of 26 beads, one of rock-crystal, two in form of miniature jugs. Cf. *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities*, I (1931), Pl. XXXIII, 2, 3. Most of opaque dark blue glass. Mus. Cat. 31.301.

Loculus 3.

1. Tall conical glass flask with long cylindrical neck. Two small handles at base of neck, continuing down sides as corrugated appliqué strips. Base broken away. Orig. ht. c. 0.021 m. Mus. Cat. 31.291.
2. Tall tubular glass bottle, swelling at centre; lip slightly turned over outwards. Existing ht. 0.172 m. As *Cat. Général du Musée du Caire, Graeco-Egyptian Glass*, No. 32.693. Mus. Cat. 31.290.
3. Bracelet of blue-black glass, of hemispherical section. Diam. 0.049 m. Mus. Cat. 31.289.

ROCK-CUT TOMB AT TARSHĪHĀ

4. Small plain gold wire ear-ring; joined at ends by a loop. In two fragments. Overall length 0.014 m. Mus. Cat. 31.287.
5. Bronze wire ear-ring; broken. Ends joined originally in loop. Diam. c. 0.02 m. Mus. Cat. 31.300.
6. Bronze wire bracelet; of square section; broken and bent. Ends originally joined by loop. c. 0.083 m. overall. Mus. Cat. 31.298.
7. Bronze wire bracelet with spiral fluting. Ends beaten flat and decorated with faint incisions. Diam. c. 0.06 m. Mus. Cat. 31.295.
8. Bronze wire bracelet with spiral fluting. Ends beaten flat and decorated with faint incisions. Diam. c. 0.062 m. Probably formed a pair with No. 7 (31.295), though it is slightly thicker. Mus. Cat. 31.294.
9. Bronze wire bracelet; of square section. Broken and bent. Probably formed a pair with No. 6 (31.298). Mus. Cat. 31.297.
10. Bronze wire bracelet with spiral fluting. Ends beaten flat. 0.065 × 0.055 m. Mus. Cat. 31.296.
11. Small bronze ring of rectangular section. 0.021 × 0.018 m. Mus. Cat. 31.299.
12. Small bronze bell; clapper missing. Ring for suspension above. Ht. 0.026 m. Diam. 0.021 m. Mus. Cat. 31.293.
13. Bone pin. Rough bulbous head, partly split away. Ht. 0.095 m. Mus. Cat. 31.288.
14. Small bronze fragment, resembling a pin-head, and pierced laterally. Length 0.014 m. Mus. Cat. 31.315.
15. Group of 47 beads, of glass and terra-cotta. Including one in shape of miniature jug. Cf. *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities*, I (1931), Pl. XXXIII, 2, 3. Mus. Cat. 31.292.

Loculus 4.

1. Bone pin; head decorated with intersecting grooves. Length 0.102 m. Mus. Cat. 31.316.
2. Fragment of bone pin. Roughly pentagonal head, which has been pierced horizontally, though upper part is broken away. Existing length 0.056 m. Mus. Cat. 31.320.
3. Fragment of bronze bell. Suspended by a twisted wire inserted through hole at top. Clapper missing. Bent. Orig. diam. c. 0.019 m. Mus. Cat. 31.319.
4. Iron finger ring, flat, ribbon-like, with large circular bezel. Very much decayed and oxidized. External diam. 0.022 m. Mus. Cat. 31.321.
- *5. Pair of bronze plano-convex ear-rings; the plane surface is a circle. Diam. c. 0.011 m. Mus. Cat. 31.318. Pl. VIII, 6. Cf. Vestibule, 9.

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- *6. Bronze cross of the usual Christian type. A grooved circle with depression in centre at end of each arm, and in centre of cross. Ends of arms slightly concave. Ring at top for suspension. 0.018×0.027 m. (to top of ring). Mus. Cat. 31.317. Pl. VIII, 5.
- 7. Lower portion of tall, tubular glass bottle, with swelling at about centre. Cf. *Cat. Général du Musée de Caire, Graeco-Egyptian Glass*, No. 32.693. Remaining ht. 0.01 m. Mus. Cat. 31.322.
- 8. Group of nine beads and one bead-spreader. Two beads and the bead-spreader are of (amber-coloured) glass, the remainder of glass paste. Mus. Cat. 31.323.

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ROCK-CUT TOMB AT TARSHĪHĀ

AN EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT KHIRBAT 'ASIDA

IN December, 1926, the Department of Antiquities learnt of the discovery of a mosaic pavement at Khirbat 'Asida near Beit 'Ummar village, eleven kilometres north of Hebron. Steps were taken at the time to prevent damage, and in May 1932 the site was excavated.

The site contains the foundations of an Early Christian church, having a central nave, with two lateral aisles, and a narthex. The rock slopes downwards from west to east. While the plan of the narthex, of which the lower part had been cut in the rock, was fairly well preserved, no trace remained of the chancel, the floor of which would have lain about 1 metre above the original rock surface. In parts where foundations were missing the plan was shown by the edges of the mosaic pavement.

Two doors gave access to the narthex, on the west and on the south. The rock being higher than the floor-level, steps were cut in it leading down to the threshold, the stones of which were 30 cm. thick. The rock-cut surfaces were faced with rubble and plastered as far as the inner edge of the threshold.

The floor of the narthex had a mosaic pavement consisting of a field containing a scale pattern, bordered by three rows of black tesserae. The surround was composed of white tesserae decorated with red crosslets (Pl. IX, 1).

The church was entered through a door in the middle of the east wall of the narthex. This wall was cut out of the rock to a height of 30 cm., the upper part being built of a rubble core with dressed stone facings. The walls of the rest of the church were of rubble plastered internally and externally; they were for the most part destroyed.

Two rows of four columns or piers divided the nave from the aisles; their position was indicated by gaps in the mosaic pavement outlined with white tesserae laid parallel to the sides, and by the moulded respond in the north-west corner of the nave.

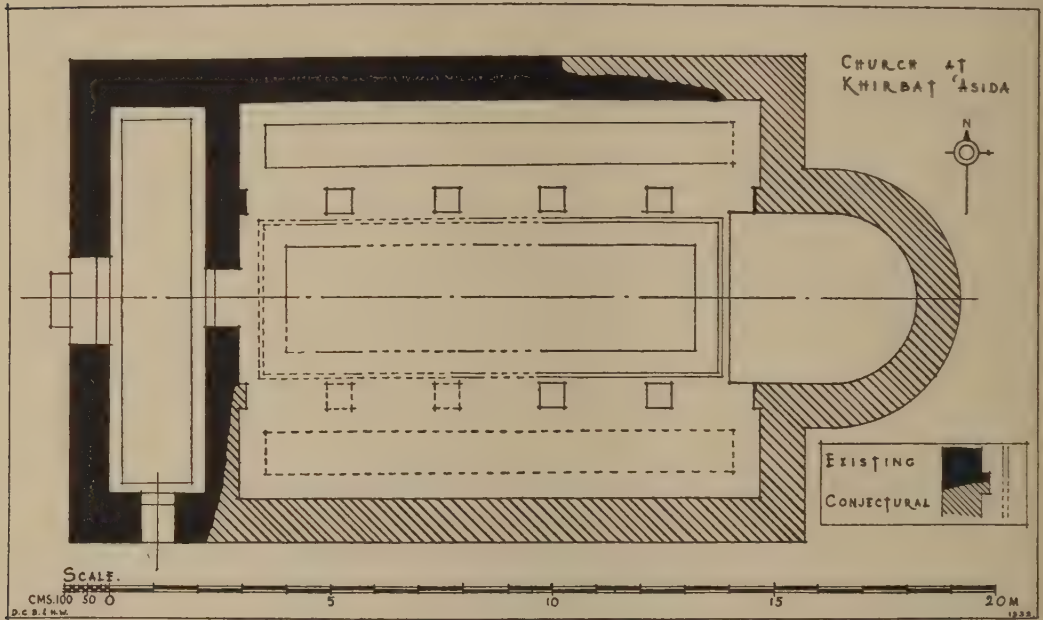
The floor of the nave had a mosaic pavement consisting of—

(1) a surround, decorated with a single row of black tesserae, interrupted at equal intervals by alternating ovals and indented squares (Pl. IX, 2);

(2) a border consisting of a row of black triangles, and a guilloche in black, red, orange, and white (Pl. IX, 2);

(3) a field, containing a trellis of vines proceeding from an amphora at the west end. The amphora is outlined in black, and has a red mouth, greyish-blue neck and shoulders, while the body consists of a white and red meander beneath the shoulders, and orange and white sides (Pl. X). The

vine-branches carry leaves, grapes, and tendrils, and form with the vase eleven rows of three medallions each. Only seventeen medallions survive, the rest being entirely destroyed. The branches, tendrils, and stalks are red, the leaves green, or black, and the grapes red or orange, and white outlined in black. Each medallion, with the exceptions noted below, contains flowers or



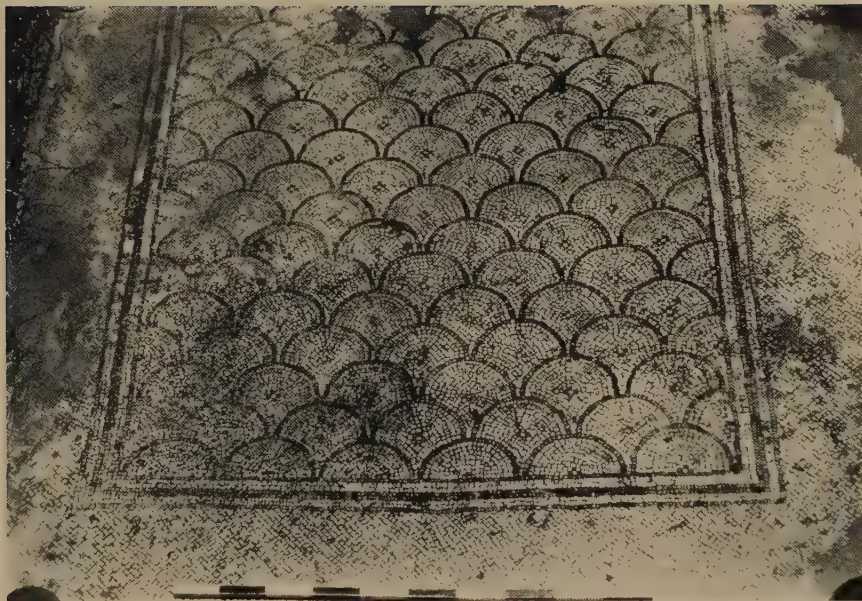
fruits, mostly pomegranates, grafted on to the vine-branches. The flowers are red, orange, and white, outlined in black, with black or red stalks, except the cup-shaped flower in the middle of the second row which is orange and green (Pl. XII, 1).

The fruits are red, orange, yellow, green, and white outlined in black, with a red or black stalk.

The medallion in the middle of the third row contains a 'bird cage'¹ in black, red, and orange.

The medallion on the left in the tenth row contains a flamingo (Pls. X and XI, 1). The head and neck have been carefully replaced with white tesserae, so that the original outline is still distinctly visible. The body is reddish, mixed with green tesserae, the legs red, and a white tessera forms the eye. The outline

¹ The cage occurs in several mosaic pavements of the fifth and sixth centuries.



1. KH. 'ASIDA : MOSAIC PAVEMENT OF THE NARTHEX



2. KH. 'ASIDA : MOSAIC PAVEMENT OF S.E. CORNER OF NAVE



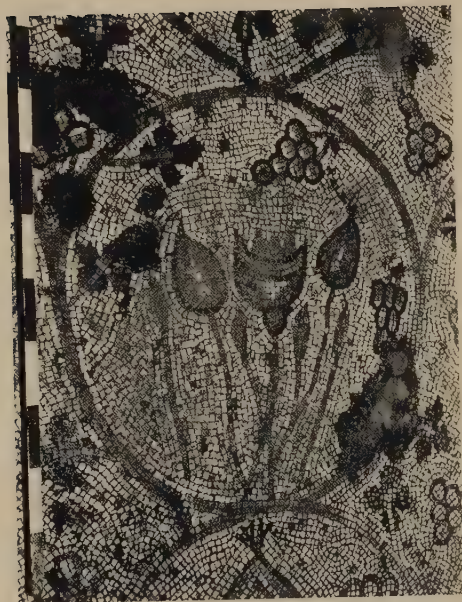
KH. 'ASIDA : ROWS 10 AND 11 OF MEDALLIONS IN NAVE



1. KH. 'ASIDA : FLAMINGO IN TENTH ROW IN NAVE, FIRST FROM LEFT



2. KH. 'ASIDA : LION TRANSFORMED INTO PLANTS IN ELEVENTH ROW OF
MEDALLIONS IN NAVE



1. KH. 'ASIDA : CUP-SHAPED FLOWER IN MIDDLE
OF SECOND ROW IN NAVE



2. KH. 'ASIDA : OBJECTS FOUND ON SITE

AN EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT KHIRBAT 'ASIDA

of another flamingo is barely discernible in the medallion on the right in the same row, but an attempt had subsequently been made to give it the appearance of a plant (Pl. X).

The medallion on the left of the amphora contains two plants, together marking the outline of a lion, interrupted near the middle by a white ground. The 'tail' and the 'paws' are yellow (Pls. X and XI, 2).

The flowers and fruits with a small area around each, contained in the medallions, were formed of tesserae different in size and shade of colour from the rest of the pavement, and were obviously later insertions (Pl. IX, 2). Originally the medallions probably contained birds and animals¹ which were later replaced by plants during the iconoclastic movement which spread over the Near East in the eighth century.² This would explain the division of the lion by white tesserae to make it appear as two plants (Pl. XI, 2). The flamingoes in the tenth row suffered the same fate, but no attempt had been made to give the appearance of a plant to that on the left.

The lateral aisles of the church were also paved with white mosaics sprinkled with sprigs and enclosed in a black border. The east portions of these aisles were completely destroyed and it was not possible to find out whether a prothesis and a diakonikon existed or not. On the plan it has been assumed that they did not. An intrusive wall of well-dressed stones blocked up the first intercolumnar space on the left of the entrance of the church.

The objects discovered during the excavation included the mouth of a vessel, probably a lamp, in the form of the head of an animal, an early Arabic lamp, and a carved ivory handle (all on Pl. XII, 2).

The basilica, including the original pavement, can tentatively be dated to the fifth century. The border of the pavement in the nave closely resembles that of the pavement in the church of the Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs at Jerash which contained a dated inscription (464-5 A.D.).³ Also the scale pattern in the narthex and the border in the nave are almost identical with designs found in a church at Hit and dated to the fifth century.⁴

D. C. BARAMKI.

M. AVI-YONAH.

¹ Cf. Owsepian in *ZDPV*, 1895, pp. 88 ff.

² H. Leclercq, 'Images (Culte et Querelles des)', col. 232 ff. in *Dictionnaire d'Archéologie et de Liturgie*.

³ Crowfoot, *Churches at Jerash*, pp. 30 ff., Pl. XIII a.

⁴ Mouterde in *Syria*, 1925, p. 361 f., Pl. XLIV, 2.

LEAD COINS OF BARQŪQ

IN April 1931 the Department of Antiquities acquired thirty-six lead coins (out of a group of thirty-eight) from a dealer in Jerusalem. The latter had bought these coins as a group, alleged to have been found together, but he could neither establish their provenance nor find out whether these coins represented the whole of the find or only a portion of it. Nevertheless, judging from their state of preservation and general appearance, there can be hardly any doubt that all these coins come from one site, that they have been kept for a very considerable time in one place or in one receptacle, in one word, that they represent a hoard.¹

The reverse of all these coins is the same, the obverse shows two different legends, and the coins have therefore been divided into two classes: A and B. (Pl. XIII, 1.)

Obv.:

A²

وما النصر الا من الله
لا اله الا الله محمد
رسول الله ارسل بالهدى
ودين الحق ليظهره على
الدين كى

B³

وما النصر الا من
الله لا اله الا الله
الى عالم العز له
.....

Rev.:

ضرب بدمشق
السلطان الملك الظا
هر سيف الدنيا والدين أبو
سعيد برقوق خلد الله
الملا سبع ثما سبعما
سنة و نين و ثة
عز نصره

¹ In December 1928 the present writer saw four similar lead coins in the hands of another dealer. No information as to provenance was available then, but the extreme rarity of lead coins in general combined with the great similarity of the specimens shown on both occasions, the identity of the legend and their appearance as a whole make it highly probable that they too belong to the same hoard.

² Pl. XIII, 1, b.

³ Pl. XIII, 1, c, d.

LEAD COINS OF BARQŪQ

There are several mistakes in the die.

Reverse:

The *nūn* of السلطان usually written above the word, has been given the shape of an ن and placed above the *ṣīn*; the date is divided between two lines as indicated; the tail of the ع in سبع looks like ين (cf. also the ر in الظاهر), but in view of the following ثمانين it would be impossible to read سبعين.

Obverse of A:

The words من ال written above the first line are amalgamated and look like one word, the second *alif* of ال being missing. The second *mīm* of محمد looks like a م and the *dāl* has the height of a *lām*. بالهدى, the reading of which is established by its context, looks like بالماي or بالفاي. In ليظهره the *yā* is missing; on the other hand there is a superfluous tooth between *hā* and *rā*, and, moreover, the second *hā* has dwindled into a small dot. كي, the last word of the text, bears no resemblance to the expected كله.

It is difficult to see why Barqūq should have introduced lead coins which were a departure from the three standard metals used in Mamluk coinage, and must therefore have meant material loss to the population. Barqūq's monetary policy was, on the whole, one of consideration for the purses of his subjects; he refrained from debasing the value of the coins, a policy which started under his predecessors and was aggravated under his successors to the great detriment of the people. His dinars were worth 20 dirhams,¹ and coins with his name were struck outside the Mamluk realm.² On the other hand there was a marked tendency during his reign to do away with predominance of silver and gold as the sole metals from which legal tender could be struck. His major-domo, Maḥmūd b. 'Alī al-Ustādār, bought copper from Europe and struck many *fulūs*, establishing in A.H. 794 a mint at Alexandria for the purpose.³ As the copper had to be paid for in silver, very few dirhams were

¹ Qalqashandī, *Subḥ al-a'shā*, III, 442.

² Tabriz, Mossul, Māridīn, Sinjār, Diwrigī, Erzerum, Erzingān, cf. Ibn Iyās, I, 315, l. 9 ff.; with regard to Tabriz, cf. also Ibn Furāt, MS. Vienna, Vol. IX, fo. 20^r, l. 12 ff., although it should be borne in mind that Tabriz was conquered by Qarā Muḥammad at-Turkumānī and nominally held in Barqūq's name.

³ It is curious that in none of the well-known collections of Mamluk coins (British Museum; Bodleian Library; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; Egyptian Library, Cairo) do there appear to be any of the copper coins struck by Barqūq in Alexandria (cf. the catalogues of Lavoix and Lane-Poole). Still, they do exist and will be published in the forthcoming catalogue of Mamluk coins of the Palestine Archaeological Museum.

struck, with the result that copper coins, although not legal tender, became more generally current than silver and became the measure in which the value of silver was expressed.¹

In 789, a few years earlier, Jarkas al-Khalilī received orders to strike coins of a new type, the coins to show two circles with a legend between them, in the innermost circle on the one side a legend, on the other the name of Barqūq.²

It is tempting to identify these lead coins with the 'black dirhams' (*ad-darāhim as-saudā*).³ The colour of the coins would amply justify such an epithet and the low value of the 'black dirhams', viz. one-third of a *dirham an-nuqra*, which itself contained only two-thirds of silver and one-third of copper, would be easily explained if the black dirhams were made of lead.

No.	Type.	Weight in grammes. ⁴	Diam. of lined border in mm. ⁵		Width in mm. ⁶
			Obv.	Rev.	
1	A	16.83	27	29	32
2	A	17.01	27	—	33
3	A	13.50	27	29-30	35
4	A	5.44	—	—	24
5	A	12.91	—	—	30
6	A	8.67	27½	—	35
7	A	15.39	28	30	35
8	A	14.29	27	—	28
9	A	10.52	—	—	30

¹ Maqrīzī, *Nuqūd*, ed. Constantinople 1298, pp. 15, ll. 21 ff.; 18, ll. 23 ff.; *Khīṭat*, II, 396, l. 6 (biography of Maḥmūd), 397, l. 4. Qalqashandī, l.c., p. 467, ll. 7 ff., explains the shortage of silver differently, saying that it started after A.H. 800 owing to the silver being used up for saddles and vessels (لاستهلاكها في السروج والآنية), and owing to the interruption of the import from the lands of the Franks and other countries.

² Ibn Furāt, l. c., fo. 3^v, ll. 16 ff. On the next folio Ibn Furāt tells us of the transfer of the workmen to the Sultanian stables with their tools. It is hardly possible to explain the great interest which the Sultan took in the matter and showed on inspection of the new mint, unless we assume that besides the new legend on the coins, there was a more radical change, such as in the composition of the metal. The final legend was different, as Ibn Furāt tells us (l.c. fo. 4^v, ll. 4-3 from bottom), in the circle the text read 'Barqūq 'azza naṣruhu', on the margin round it 'al-Malik az-Zāhir'. No coins of the latter type are mentioned in the catalogues.

³ Qalqashandī, l.c., p. 443, ll. 13 ff.

⁴ The weights in the following table have been rounded off, 0.005 gm. and more being counted as 0.01 gm. The lack of proportion between the weight and the width is accounted for by the difference in thickness between the single coins.

⁵ It should be noted that the lined border of the reverse is slightly rectangular, with unequal sides. A dash indicates either that less than half of the border has been preserved or that its sections are not so distributed as to enable us to measure the diameter. No diameter was calculated.

⁶ The width given is the maximum width between any two points of the circumference.

LEAD COINS OF BARQŪQ

No.	Type.	Weight in grammes.	Diam. of lined border in mm.		Width in mm.
			Obv.	Rev.	
10	A	10.32	28	31	41
11	A	21.88	28	—	40
12	A	13.69	—	—	30
13	A	11.86	—	—	27
14	B	18.40	28	25-26½	33
15	A	12.37	27	—	29
16	A	12.22	27	29	33
17	A	18.18	—	—	33
18	A	4.89	—	—	30
19	A	13.49	27½	—	34
20	A	7.48	—	—	34
21	A	10.89	—	—	26
22	A	13.21	—	—	44
23	A	9.21	—	—	25
24	A	11.12	—	—	28
25	A	16.83	—	—	31
26	B	7.77	—	—	27
27	A	14.87	—	—	31
28	A	12.10	27½	—	31
29	A	12.49	—	—	30
30	A	9.81	—	—	26
31	A	22.01	28	30	34
32	A	14.77	27	—	33
33	A	9.96	—	—	25
34	B	16.09	27	26	31
35	B	10.66	26	—	30
36	A	10.32	27	—	33
37	B	10.43	27½	27½	32
38	A	18.20	27½	—	30

L. A. MAYER.

SATURA EPIGRAPHICA ARABICA III¹

ISDŪD

SHRINE to the west of the village,² locally known as Sīdnā Ibrāhīm.

6

FOUNDATION TEXT. A.H. 667. Slab of marble embedded in the southern wall of the western portico of the shrine to the right of the door. Dimensions, measured on squeeze, $52 \times 44\frac{1}{2}$ cm. Nine lines of cursive Mamluk naskhi, points throughout, a few differentiating signs. Unpublished, cf. Pl. XIII, 2.

- (1) بِسْمِ اللَّهِ . . . إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ
(2) اللَّهُ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ أَمْرٌ بِعِمَارَةِ هَذَا
(3) المسجد المبارك على هذا المشهد المبارك
(4) [أ] المعروف بسلمان الفارسي العبد الفقير إلى ربه
(5) الراجي عفوه بلبان بن عبدالله عتيق الأمير الكبير
(6) علم الدين سنجر التركستاني في أيام مولانا السلطان
(7) [أ] لأجل الملك الظاهر ركن الدنيا والدين بيبرس الصالحى
(8) خلد الله ملكه ومن ذلك أنشأ البير والأرض وفقاً له
(9) [؟نف]عه الله به وملعون من يغيره أو يبدله بتاريخ رجب سنة سبع
وستين وستمئة.

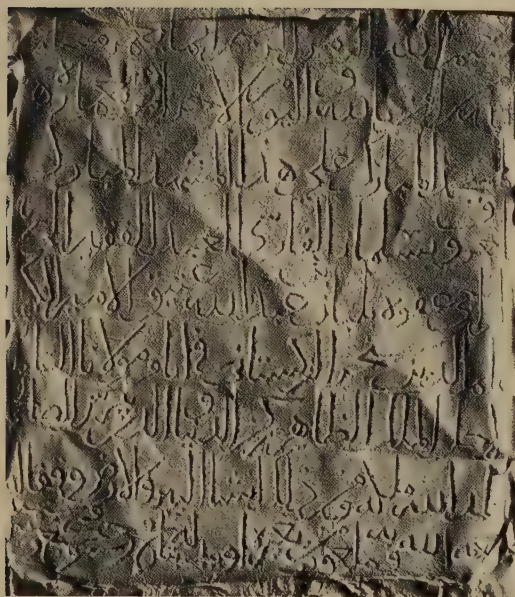
Qur'ān IX. 18, up to *and the last day*. . . . Ordered the building of this blessed mosque over this blessed shrine known as the one of Salmān al-Fārisī, . . . Balbān b. Abdallāh, freedman of the great Amir 'Alam ad-dīn Sanjar at-Turkistānī,

¹ Continued from Vol. I, pp. 37 ff., Vol. II, pp. 127 ff.

² *Al-qaul al-mustazraf*, ed. Lanzzone, p. 1* (trans. Devonshire, *BIFAO*, XX, p. 6), where Ibrāhīm is called al-Mutawallī; Guérin, *Description, Judée*, II, p. 71; *Survey of Western Palestine*, II, p. 421 f. (trans. of Guérin); Clermont-Ganneau, *Recueil d'Archéologie Orientale*, III, 250; Huart, 'Selmān du Fārs' in *Mélanges Hartwig Dérénbourg*, p. 310.



1. LEAD COINS OF BARQŪQ



2



3

SATURA EPIGRAPHICA ARABICA III

in the days of our Lord, the Most Magnificent Sultan, al-Malik aṣ-Ṣāḥir Rukn ad-dunyā wa-d-dīn Baybars aṣ-Ṣāliḥī . . . and as a part of this (foundation) established a well and a (plot of) land as endowment for it . . . in Rajab of the year 667 (began 6 March 1269).

A few shrines devoted to the memory of Salmān al-Fārisī are shown in Palestine, although they are not so numerous as one might expect from the assertion of Clermont-Ganneau.¹ Besides the mashhad at Isdūd there is one on the Mount of Olives,² entirely renewed since the Great War, and there was one to the east of Lydda³ destroyed before 1871.

Sanjar at-Turkistānī, an important amir under Baybars, died in 667.⁴

7

EPITAPH. A.H. 877. Slab of marble inset in the narrow west side of the tomb, in the main hall of the same shrine. Seven (originally at least eight) lines of provincial naskhi, dimensions measured on squeeze, $44\frac{1}{2} \times 23$ cm.; many diacritical points, a few differentiating signs and vowel-marks, all three groups of signs serving mainly as filling ornaments. Unpublished, cf. Pl. XIII, 3.

(1) هذا ضريح العبد الفقير الى

(2) الله تعالى الامام الرباني

(3) قطب الوجود أبو اسحاق

(4) إبراهيم المتبولى أعاد ا

(5) لله بركاته أمين توفى الى رحمة

(6) الله تعالى نهار الاثنين ثانی عشر

(7) ربيع الأول سنة سبعة وسبعين وثمان مائة

. . . This is the tomb of . . . Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Matbūlī . . . Passed away . . . Monday, the 12th Rabī' I. 877 (17 August 1472).

L. A. MAYER.

¹ *Études d'archéologie orientale*, II, p. 108, n. 4: La personnalité de Selmān el-Fār'sy est très populaire en Palestine et en Syrie. De nombreux sanctuaires y sont placés sous son vocable et ont dû hériter de cultes antérieurs.

² *QSt.*, 1877, p. 101; Goldziher, *Muhammedanische Studien*, II, p. 353.

³ Clermont-Ganneau, *Archaeological Researches*, II, pp. 471, 474; *Études*, II, p. 108; Levi della Vida, *The Encyclopaedia of Islām*, s.v. Salmān al-Fārisī.

⁴ Ibn Taghribirdī, *al-Manhal aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥ*, MS. Paris Ar. 2070, fo. 105^v (trsl. Wiet, No. 1097).

MOSAIC PAVEMENTS IN PALESTINE¹

182. KH. 'ALYĀ. III. N. e.

Scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 62.

183. KH. EL 'ALYĀ. XIV. N. f.

Foundations of Roman villa. Coarse white tesserae scattered over site.

183A KH. 'AMMŪRIYA. XIV. N. q.

White tesserae scattered on surface.

184. KH. 'AQŪD EL MINYĀ. XXI. J. w.

Terrace below rectangular building. Fragments of mosaic pavement.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Judée*, III, p. 358.

184A. KH. ARNABA. XXI. K. v.

Chamber paved with white mosaic.

185. KH. EL BADD. XVI. H. s.

Fragment of tessellated pavement in orange-grove, now covered up. Tesserae visible on surface.

186. KH. EL BAHLAWĀN (BAWAIK EL MASHARFA). XX. G. x.

Tesserae scattered on surface.

187. KH. EL BAIDĀ. XIV. J. f.

White tesserae scattered over site.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 78.

188. KH. BEIT 'AINŪN. XXI. L. w.

(1) In field 10 m. south of 'el Kenise'. Large white tesserae, covering 20·30 m. sq., four tesserae in 10 cm. sq.

(2) On the west edge of (1). Fragment with geometrical patterns in white, red, and black, present area 2·25 m. sq., eighty-one tesserae in 10 cm. sq.

(3) Church south-east of pool. Tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, pp. 39, 47.

189. KH. EL BIYĀR. XVII. M. s.

Mosaic fragments in the east part of the remains of the apsis.

Bibl.: Lagrange in *RB*, 1894, p. 450.

¹ Continued from Vol. II, p. 181.

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190. KH. EL BUREIJ. XIX. C. X.

White tesserae scattered over site.

191. KH. DATHRA. XIV. J. r.

Remains of a pavement of white tesserae close to a small trough.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 72.

192. KH. DEIR 'AMR. XVII. L. t.

White tesserae.

193. KH. DEIR EL 'ARAB. XIV. K. q.

Terrace 48×17 steps long, once paved with white mosaic pavement, traces of which remain.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 114.

194. KH. DEIR ESH SHERĪF. XIV. L. r.

White tesserae strewn on surface.

195. KH. ED DELB. XXI. L. v.

Mosaic pavement *ca.* 25 m. north of 'Ein ed Delb. Now covered up; reported by finder as white and without decorations. Tesserae 1.5 cm. sq. All visible tesserae of white colour.

196. KH. ED DUWEIR. XIV. J. p.

Many white tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 138.

196A. KH. 'EJJIS ER RĀS. XX. F. v.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Petrie, *Tell el Hesy*, p. 52.

197. KH. EL FAKHŪRA. III. L. e.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 44.

198. KH. FĀNIS. IV. N. e.

Tesserae scattered on ground. Colours: white, grey, pink. Size: 10–18 mm. sq.

Bibl.: *SWP*, I, p. 237.

199. KH. EL FURAIÐĪS. XXI. L. u.

Mosaic pavement of rough white and black tesserae, similar to those found in the *donjon* of Jabal Furaidīs.

Bibl.: de Saulcy, *Voyage en Terre Sainte*, Appendice, p. 334 f.; quoted by Guérin, *Judée*, III, p. 123.

200. KH. GHANAIM. XXI. L. x.

Remains of basilica, containing many tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 177.

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200A. KH. GHEYĀDA. XVI. G. S.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Petrie, *Tell el Hesi*, p. 52.

201. KH. EL HAMMĀM. XIV. J. I.

Scattered tesserae of various dimensions.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 53.

202. KH. HAMSĪN. III. L. e.

Tesserae on south slope of the site.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 34 f.

202A. KH. HARRA. IV. Q. d.

Fragments of coarse white tesserae, 20 × 30 cm. in area. 20 tesserae in 10 cm. sq.

203. KH. EL HAURIA. XVII. K. S.

Big tesserae scattered over site.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 396.

204. KH. HAZIMA. III. M. f.

Scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 7.

205. KH. HIRSHĀ. XVII. K. t.

(1) White tesserae 1.5 cm. sq. scattered all over site.

(2) In chamber east of site: Fragments of tessellated pavement in green and white. Tesserae 1 cm. sq.

Bibl.: Horning, p. 131 (mention).

206. KH. HUBEILA. XVII. L. u.

Casual discovery 1924. Central nave of ruined church. Border: B 10.¹ Field: 75 with sprigs F 17.² Colours: black, white, red, and purple.

Bibl.: Abel in *RB*, 1925, p. 281 f., and Fig. 8.

207. KH. HŪSHA. V. L. h.

Plain white and grey mosaic pavement in the courtyard of Ahmad Sallameh, east of the village spring. Twenty-two cubes in 10 cm. sq. Existing part 1.20 × 1.50 m.

208. KH. IKLĪL. III. M. f.

Scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 20.

¹ This refers to the drawings in Vol. II, pp. 138-141.

² Drawing not very clear.

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209. KH. INKHEILA. XVII. N. t.

In the apsis of a ruined church. Tesserae, 18×15 to 10×8 mm.

Bibl.: Van Kasteren in *ZDPV*, 1890, p. 117.

210. KH. INQĀSHA. XVII. M. t.

Small houses paved with mosaics found 1880. The mosaics were coloured, but somewhat roughly executed.

Bibl.: Schick in *ZDPV*, 1880, p. 250.

211-12. KH. IS-HĀ. XXI. L. w.

211. Press, 150 m. west of ruin. Existing fragment (being *ca.* two-thirds of the original pavement) has 13.38 m. sq. White pavement, twenty-five tesserae in 10 cm. sq.

212. 15 m. south of north wall of ruin, in a hut. Existing fragment 2 m. sq. Field: H6, with diamonds within squares. Colours: red and black on white, fifty-eight tesserae in 10 cm. sq.¹

213. KH. JAMMĀMA. XX. G. x.

Remains of tessellated pavement close to a rubble cistern west of Biyāret el 'Atawna esh Sherqiya can be traced in sections for almost 8 m. sq. The tesserae are plain and rough.

Bibl.: Ment. in *SWP.*, III, p. 282; Petrie, *Tell el Hesj*, p. 53.

214. KH. JEBRĪS. XII. P. m.

Fragments of mosaic pavement measuring each *ca.* 1.50×1 m. in house of 'Awad el Khalil. Vine-trellis issuing from vase. White, black, red, grey and pink tesserae, averaging 90 in 10 cm. sq.

Bibl.: *SWP.*, II, p. 238.

215. KH. KĀBRĪ. III. N. f.

Scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 448.

216. KH. KAḤR BARA. XIV. J. p.

White mosaic pavement in courtyard of Muhammad 'Abdallah Talhamī. Existing fragments measure 1.67×2.25 m.; 2.68×1.40 m.; 2.20×1.15 m. Six cubes in 10 cm. sq.

¹ Cf. one of the patterns in Crowfoot, Pl. IV (dated to the middle of the fourth century, as of late classical style). This eight-pointed star is common in Roman mosaics from the first century onwards. Cf. Christie, *Pattern designing*, Oxford, 1929, p. 260, Fig. 294; *Inventaire*, I, Nos. 11 (Riez), 77 (Arles), 160 and 164 (Vienne), 299 (Nîmes), 560 (Penguemer), 1218 (Trier, dated middle of third century), 1454 (Ober-Weningen); Oppenheim-Lucas in *Byz. Zeit.*, 1905, Pl. IV (Mas'ūdiyye); Gauckler in *Mon. Piot*, III, 1897, Pl. XX (the villa of the Laberii at Utina); Bosanquet in *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 1898, p. 67, Pl. I. (Melos, dated to the third century A.D.). It is said by Bosanquet to appear in Pompeii and to become increasingly common in the provinces in the second and third centuries.

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217. KH. KAFR BEITĀ. XII. N. O.

Property of Tewfik el Khammāsh. Mosaic pavement of fair-sized white tesserae in a layer of cement over strong floor basement of roughly hewn stones.

217A. KH. KAFRŪRIYA. XVII. J. t.

White tesserae scattered on surface.

218. KH. EL KAUFAKHA. XX. F. X.

Remains of pavement of rough plain tesserae in threshing-floor on the hill west of the village.

218A. KH. EL KHĀZŪK. XVII. M. t.

Roman tesserae.

Bibl.: Petrie, *Tell el Hery*, p. 51.

219. KH. EL KUDAIRA. XVII. N. S.

Tesserae in a garden.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Judée*, III, p. 58.

220. KH. EL KUMMĀNA. VI. O. g.

Scattered tesserae on platform.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 455.

221. KH. EL LAUZ. XIV. K. r.

Fragments of mosaic pavement.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 49.

222-3. KH. EL MEJIR. XVIII. P. S.

222. West of the site. White tesserae scattered over the ground.

223. South-west of the site. Coloured tesserae (yellow, red, and brown) scattered in middle section.

224. KH. MALKAT-HĀ. XVII. K. u.

Many tesserae scattered round baptistery.

Bibl.: Séjourné in *RB*, 1896, p. 273; Horning, p. 133; Cabrol-Leclercq, s.v. *Malekat'ha*, col. 1293.

225. KH. EL MALLĀHA. III. K. f.

In south-western corner of site, fragmentary mosaic pavement. Visible fragment 1.60 × 1.10 m.

Border: *A2-B2-A2*. Field: *γ5* with 7 cusps to a side, sprinkled with groups of 6 cubes. Crosslets in spandrels. 120 tesserae to 10 cm. sq. Colours: white, black, red, yellow, pink.

226. KH. MAR 'ASH. XX. I. v.

Ancient oil press with mosaic floor of smooth white tesserae, measuring 3.40 × 3.37 m.

Bibl.: G. B. Robinson in *JBL*, 1913, pp. 54-6, plan and photograph.

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226A. KH. MIRD. XVIII. O. u.

Pieces of mosaic, partly with coloured cubes.

Bibl.: Mader in *ΨΡΟΔ*, IX, 1929, p. 126.

227. KH. EL MŪNA. III. M. f.

A few tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 21.

228. KH. EL MURASSAS. XVII. N. t.

Tessellated pavement in ruins of chapel with a simple pattern in red, black, and blue on white.

Bibl.: *SWP*, III, p. 122, plan; mentioned as having disappeared: Van Kasteren in *ZDPV*, 1890, p. 86.

229. KH. EN NASĀRA. XXI. L. w.

Numerous tesserae, especially on the west slope of the hill.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 115, n. 3.

230. KH. EL OMRY. III. L. e.

Mosaic pavement *H*3 in black and red on white.

231. KH. QASTA. VI. O. i.

White mosaic.

232. KH. RĀS ES SĪHA. V. N. g.

A few scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 450.

233. KH. SĀBIYĀ. X. I. O.

Remains of reservoir with tessellated pavement.

234. KH. ES SAFSĀFA. IX. O. j.

Mosaic pavement *ca.* 10 m. south-west of the spring. Tesserae mostly white, field sprinkled with triangular ornaments of black, red, and yellow. 35 cubes to 10 cm. sq. Existing fragment 1 m. sq.

235. KH. SALLŪJA. XVI. H. t.

Portions of tessellated pavement, made of ordinary tesserae without decorations, found at or near the cisterns.

236. KH. SARĀSĪR. XXI. K. w.

Press once paved with mosaics, now in fragments.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Judée*, III, p. 261 f.

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237. KH. SHEIKH EL GHARBĀWĪ. XIV. J. r.

(1) In a trench of the 1870 excavations, 2×1.07 m. mosaic in white, black, and red colours laid in thick layer of cement (70 cm.).

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, pp. 54, 405.

(2) Excavated in 1874.

Floor of sepulchral troughs paved with mosaics. In south and west troughs traces only. In east trough mosaic almost intact. Border: white tesserae set square. Field: white tesserae set diagonally.

Above head rest, cross outlined in dark green. Red, white, and yellow bands alternate in the arms. Yellow square with white centre at intersection of arms.

Bibl.: Clermont-Ganneau: *AR*, Vol. II, p. 366 f., Figs. 1-3; Guérin, *Galilée*, I, pp. 46, 53; *SWP*, II, p. 342.

238. KH. SHUWEIKA. III. M. g.

(1) Scattered tesserae.

(2) Press paved with coarse mosaics.

Bibl.: Ment. (as Kh. Echbekeh) by Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 49.

239. KH. ES SIDRA. XVII. M. t.

On Mount Scopus, ten minutes' walk west of Nablus Road. Numerous tesserae.

Bibl.: Lagrange in *RB*, 1894, p. 140.

240. KH. ES SIMYA. XXI. J. w.

Building with columns on eastern slope of the hill. Tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 212.

241. KH. SUFTĀ 'ĀDĪ. v. L. h.

Coarse tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 419.

242. KH. SŪSIA. XXV. K. v.

Western part of the site. Tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 216.

243. KH. SUWAIJIRA. III. L. e.

Fragments of a big mosaic pavement, $30 \times 8-9$ paces, consisting of white tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 38; *SWP*, I, p. 181.

244. KH. ES SUWEIKA. XVII. M. s.

Tesserae scattered all over site, for 50 m. sq. Colours: white, red, light grey. In some fragments 16 tesserae in 7 cm. sq.

Bibl.: *SWP*, III, p. 126.

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245. KH. TĀWŪS. XXI. J. v.

Many tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 156.

246. KH. ETH THUWAIRA. III. L. c.

Many scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 43.

247. KH. TĪRAT EL QAZĀZ. V. N. g.

Scattered tesserae near press.

Bibl.: *Ment.* (as Kh. Tell el-Kezaz) by Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 450.

248. KH. UMM EL 'AMED. VI. o. h.

Simple mosaic of limestone cubes in synagogue.

Bibl.: Kohl, Watzinger, and Hiller in *MDOG*, 1905, No. 29, p. 11; Horning, p. 121; Krauss, S., *Die galiläischen Synagogenruinen* (Ges. für Paläst. Forschung, 3. Veröff., p. 13, n. 2); Kohl-Watzinger, *Antike Synagogen in Galiläa*, Leipzig, 1916, p. 145; Klein, *Jüd.-paläst. Corpus Inscriptionum*, Wien, 1920, p. 90, n. 72; Krauss, S., *Synagogale Altertümer*, 1922, p. 339; Krauss in *REJ*, 1930, p. 385, n. 1.

249. KH. UMM EL BUREID. XIV. J. p.

Many white tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 137.

250. KH. UMM JARRĀR. XXIII. D. y.

Mosaic pavement discovered 1917, in remains of church.

(1) Choir: white surround with rows of sprigs. Border: *A1-B2*. Field: divided by *B2* into a big central panel and four side panels, two on each side, one above the other. (a) Central panel: divided into three square panels separated by a *B14* border ('rainbow' lines). In the border-field triangular dots. In the round members of the border, sprigs *F15* arranged crosswise; the oblong members are lined with *A3*. In the three central panels are two peacocks flanking a basket with grapes. (b) Side panels, bordered with *A6*. Within, on the left—above: bat (owl?), below: bird; right—above: water-bird, below: phoenix, with radiate nimbus, in chalice (or Persian form of fire-altar?) with sticks.¹

(2) Central nave: white surround with indented squares. Border: (i) *A1-B7-A2*; (ii) *γ2* with 'rainbow' lines, arranged as border. In squares, birds. In circles, geometric designs, including radiate circles, frets (e.g. *C4*, *C6*, *C7*), circles with *C2* in centre, mottled and counterchanging jagged patterns. Note especially below the choir: two beribboned doves² on each side of a vase.³ (iii) *A2-B8-A1*. Field: *γ6* in quincunx formation.⁴

¹ Cf. the fifth-century mosaic at Naples. v. Berchem—E. Clouzot, *Mosaïques chrétiennes*, Geneva, 1924, p. xxix, Fig. XLIV.

² Cf. Beisān No. 15 (5), and No. 133.

³ The same type of vase occurs in the Armenian mosaic at Jerusalem, No. 132.

⁴ Cf. Note to Beit Nattif, No. 25.

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- (3) (4) Side aisles: Border: *A* 1. Field: *H* 1, diamonds within each square.
(5) Right of choir: passage paved with rhomboid type *I* 6.
(6) Left of choir: Rhomboids, type *I* 6, to the right and below a square,¹ with four lozenges resp. triangles round them. In square, inscribed circle filled with *I* 10. Left of circle, indented rectangle.
(7) 'Diaconicon', right of apse: Border: *A* 1-*B* 9-*A* 1. Field: sprigs in quincunx formation.

Tesserae (3 cubes to 2.5 cm. lineal) of imported marble, according to Dalton. Some glass cubes used, according to Drake. Deep bed of concrete.

The cultural associations and affinities of the elements of the decoration are discussed by Dalton in *Burlington Magazine*, 1919, pp. 6-10.

Dating: Dalton—same as Shellal, middle sixth century.

Bibl.: Drake in *QSt.*, 1918, pp. 122-4, Pl.; Dalton in *Burlington Magazine*, 1919, pp. 3-10, 2 Pls.; *Ment.*: *SWP*, III, p. 389; Dalton, *East Christian Art*, 1925, p. 296.

251. KH. UMM LAJJŪN NEAR SŪR BĀHIR. XVII. M. u.

Numerous tesserae.

Bibl.: Séjourné in *RB*, 1896, p. 125; Horning, p. 130.

252. KH. UMM EL QUBBA. XIV. J. p.

Foundations of building paved with white mosaic, of which only parts remain.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, 141.

253. KH. UMM ESH SHUQAF. XVI. F. u.

Tesserae scattered on surface.

254. KH. WAZIYA. III. M. f.

Building 30 × 15 paces, once paved with mosaics, of which hundreds of tesserae remain.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, II, p. 9.

255. KH. ZABDĀ. XIV. J. r.

Many white tesserae in the remains of a rectangular building.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 73.

256. KH. ZAKARIYĀ. XIV. J. r.

Tesserae scattered in valley between Kh. Zakariyā and Kh. el Hammām.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 53.

¹ For this type of rhomboid cf. the Sidon mosaic (Dunand in *Syria*, VII, p. 2 f., Pl. II); the church of Apostles and Martyrs (Crowfoot, Pl. XIII) dated A.D. 464; cf. also No. 118. For the chronological significance of the filled rhomboid, see Crowfoot, p. 46.

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257. KH. ZANŪ'. XVII. J. U.

100 m. west of the Walī Abū Fātima, in western part of a group of buildings. Scattered tesserae.

258-9. EL KURMUL. XXI. L. X.

258. First Basilica, east of castle ruins. Very many pavement mosaics not very fine in form and colour.

259. Third Basilica, south of the castle ruins. Strewn with tesserae.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 181 f.

260. MAMĀS (SHUNĪ). VIII. J. K.

Coarse white mosaic on road below farm.

261. MĀR SĀBĀ. XVIII. N. U.

Fragments of white mosaic.

Bibl.: Horning, p. 131.

262. MĪ'ILYĀ. III. N. E.

White mosaic in the courtyard of Yūsuf Qassis.

263. MĪNAT EL QAL'A. XVI. F. T.

Fragments of tessellated pavement.

Bibl.: Conder in *QSt.*, 1875, p. 157; *SWP*, II, p. 427.

264. EL MISHREFA, SOUTH OF BEERSHEBA.

Mosaic with leaves, flowers, and scroll decoration.

Bibl.: *Ment.*: Horning, p. 134.

265. MOUNT GERIZIM. XI. N. O.

Octagonal church paved with fragmentary coloured mosaics with complicated linear patterns.

Dated on historical evidence to A.D. 484.

Bibl.: Welter in *Forschungen und Fortschritte*, 1928, p. 329, plan; Schneider, in *Neue deutsche Ausgrabungen*, 1930, pp. 83-4, plan; Rücker in *HL*, 1933, p. 9.

266. MUKHMĀS. XVII. N. S.

Mosaic in church at the north end of the village.

In nave and aisles: (a) plain diaper pattern of crosses. The whole patched with coarse white tesserae. (b) Enclosed in nave, two rectangular panels: (i) Western: Border: B2. Field: circle, with foiled rings within, whose arcs continue over and under one another, uniting with the opposite members.¹ In centre, small hexagon.

¹ Cf. Christie, *Pattern designing*, Oxford, 1929, p. 91, Fig. 86 (Roman mosaic, Constantine, Algiers) and one of the patterns in Crowfoot, Pl. X (dated A.D. 533).

(ii) Eastern: Border: *A7* in *A2*. Field: inscription in six lines, black tesserae on red lines, letters 5 cm. high:

Κύριε μνήσθητι τὸν | δοῦλον σου Οὐαλεντῖ|[νον] ἅμα συνβίῳ κὲ τέκν|[οις τ]ῷ σπουδάζσαντι
γε|[νέσ]θε κὲ ψηφωθῆνε τῇ|[ν ὅσι]ωτάτην ἐκκλησίαν.

P. Fernander quoted in *Biblica*: l. 4: τεκνῶ, l. 6: ἀγιωτάτην.

Lord, remember Thy servant Valentinus, with his wife and children: who zealously promoted the building and decoration with mosaic of the most holy Church.

Bibl.: R. W. H. in *Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities*, I, p. 103 f., Pl. XXXIX;
A. Mallon in *Biblica*, 1931, pp. 117-19. *Ment.*: E. Grant in *QSt.*, 1926, p. 194; E.
Millar-Burrows in *BASOR*, 1932, No. 45, p. 24.

267. EL MUNTĀR. XXI. K. X.

Remains of tessellated pavement of white limestone, rather large tesserae.

Bibl.: *SWP*, III, p. 377 (and plan).

268. EL MUTILLA (METULLA). II. Q. b.

On Rosh Pinna-Mutilla Road, at Km. 236. 850. Pavement of white rough tesserae, 12.65 m. in length east to west, and *ca.* 5 m. in width north to south. In the middle of the pavement a cavity, to which the pavement is slightly inclined. Apparently remains of a Byzantine wine-press.

269. NABĪ TURFĪNĪ. XVII. K. S.

Tomb, said to be paved with mosaic.

Bibl.: *SWP*, III, p. 153.

270. NĀBLUS. XI. N. O.

Tessellated pavement just east of Joseph's tomb.

Bibl.: *SWP*, II, p. 206.

271-2. NAZARETH. V. N. i.

271. Church of the Annunciation. Pavements discovered 1895.

(1) In the courtyard: two fragments of white mosaic.

(2) 'Chapel of the Angel' 3.40 × 3.60 m. (maximum length of preserved part).
Field: *H3*. Near the north end inscription:

Π(α)ρ(ᾱ) Κώνω|νος Διακό(νου) | 'Ιεροσολ|ύμων

For Cononus, Dean of Jerusalem. (Horning, following Vlaminck, read the ligature of Παρά as the monogram.)

(3) South of (2). Surround: white, sprinkled with crosses and diamonds, in one place Greek cross with four crosslets in the angles of the arms. Border: three rows of tesserae. Field: divided into two panels of unequal size: (*a*) Upper: Border: *A4* in white and black chequer-*A1*. In corners crosslets. In centre, circle, formed by several counterchanging rows of tesserae, with a kind of fillet below. Within the circle the monogram.¹ Above it traces of ornament. (*b*) Lower panel: Border: *A1*.

¹ This type of monogram $\mathfrak{P}$ in a wreath occurs at Henchir-Chigarnia, *Inventaire*, II, 277. Cf. also No. 336.

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In field two crosses, one the meeting-point of four, the other of two converging lines. Field sprinkled with dots.

(4) North of (2). Pavement of tomb. White surround. Border: *A1*. Field: *H3*. In centre, square with chequer *G1* in *A2*. In lozenges, diamonds. Below the chequer, the monogram.

272. Church of the House of St. Joseph. (1) White pavement of tesserae similar to those of (1) of No. 271. (2) Small white cubes in basin, near (1). (3) Coarse white cubes with lines of black cubes.

Dating: Viaud regards 271 (2) as of the fifth–sixth centuries.

Bibl.: Quaresmius, *Elucidatio*, II, p. 825; Vlaininck, *The Sanctuary of Nazareth*, 1900, p. 3 f., Figs., plan.; G. Angelini in *NB*, 1907, p. 150; Horning, p. 120; Viaud in *CAL*, 1909, p. 792; Viaud, *Nazareth et ses deux églises . . .*, 1910, pp. 51, 63, 87 f., 90 ff., 93, 141 f., Figs. 43, 44, 45, 46; J. Reil in *ZDPV*, 1912, pp. 140–59, 2 Pls. (follows Viaud); Deissmann in *ZDPV*, 1913, p. 210; F. Bleckmann in *ZDPV*, 1913, p. 240 (ment.); Cabrol-Leclercq, s.v. Annonciation, col. 2246.

273. QALA'AT EL HUSN.

Ruins of Byzantine basilica. Mosaic tesserae.

274. QASR 'ALĪ. XVII. N. t.

Platform of cistern near old Jericho road, paved with a fine mosaic pavement of white tesserae.

Bibl.: Van Kasteren in *ZDPV*, 1890, p. 94.

275. QASR BINT EL MALIK. VI. Q. h.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Frei in *ZDPV*, 1886, p. 89.

276. QASR YAHŪD. XVIII. P. s.

Tessellated pavement supposed to exist from presence of tesserae.

Bibl.: *SWP*, III, p. 218.

277. EL QATAR. XVIII. O. u.

Terrace round the mouth of a well, paved with small tesserae of unequal size, averaging 1 cm. sq. In three places blue tesserae were seen *in situ*; in a fourth blue, red, and white tesserae.

Bibl.: Van Kasteren in *ZDPV*, 1890, 111 f.

278. QUBŪR EL 'ARAB. V. K. i.

Tesserae scattered on the surface.

Bibl.: E. Graf von Mülinen in *ZDPV*, 1908, p. 80.

279. RĀFĀT. XIV. K. q.

Property of Ahmad Shihāda Jubrān. Mosaic pavement of white tesserae *ca.* 2 cm. sq.

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279A. ER RĀMA. IV. O. f.

Mosaics on tell south-west of village.

Bibl.: Ben-Zvi in *JPOS*, XIII, p. 22.

280. RAMAT EL KHALĪL. XXI. L. W.

Several basketfuls of polished mosaic fragments of various colours found during the excavations in 1926-8.

Bibl.: Mader in *Oriens Christianus*, 3rd ser., Vol. I, 1927, p. 349; *id.* in *Biblica*, 1928, p. 125; *id.* in *Rivista di archeologia cristiana*, 1929, p. 278; *id.* in *RB*, 1930, p. 117.

281. RANTĪS. XIV. K. q.

(1) Small mosaic pavement in plot of ground known as al-Keniseh, south of Rantīs. Colours: white, black, red, and orange. 56 tesserae to 10 cm. sq. Now covered up.

(2) West-south-west of (1). Large white tesserae 1.5 × 4 cm. sq. each.

(3) Covered up.

Bibl.: *Ment.*: Horning, p. 133.

282. RĀS ED DAHR. III. N. g.

Portions of tessellated pavement, probably remains of a small chapel.

Bibl.: *SWP*, I, p. 329.

282A. REHOVŌT. XVI. H. s.

House of J. Eisenberg. Remains of tessellated pavement of white tesserae.

283. ROSH PINNĀ. IV. Q. f.

Ruined mosque, known as Beit el 'Arab. A building measuring 11.27 × 9.44 m., once perhaps a bath. One of its terraces paved with cubes of hard limestone, placed in good mortar, together 1.25 cm. thick. Colours: black, white, and grey.

Bibl.: Schumacher in *QSt.*, 1889, p. 74 (plan).

284-91. SABASTYA. XI. M. n.

284-6 discovered in the 1908-11 excavations.

284. 'Atrium House' (Room 366). On hard packed earth white mosaic pavement divided by narrow bands of black into two rectangular panels; the smaller panel containing a square with double border-lines.

285. House near Gateway (Room 9). Plain white mosaic in north-east corner.

286. 'Basilica'. Aisles paved with plain white mosaic, with a narrow border of black near the edges, and a small ornamental centre-piece in colour (cinquefoil in red and black).

Bibl.: Reisner-Fisher-Lyon: *Harvard Excavations at Samaria*, Cambridge (Mass.), 1924, pp. 169, 182, 205, 214; Plans 8, 10, 12, Phot. Pls. 35 a 9, 50 a.

287-91 discovered in the 1931 excavations.

287. (1) 'Mosaic house' (El-Qa'deh). Court surrounded by walks paved with mosaic, decorated with narrow black stripes on white ground. Border: B7-B8.

(2) Room, paved with mosaics. Broad border with double spiral in black and

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central field with minute tessellae, 1 mm. sq. Cubes of border less than 1 cm. sq. on the average.

(3) To east passage paved with mosaics.

288. Church of St. John. (1) Traces of mosaic pavement with imbricated pattern.

(2) Patches of mosaic with fragment of inscription in aisle.

289. Karm et Tuteh. Part of mosaic floor on north side of field: end of tabula ansata and half a dozen letters.

290. Karm esh Sheikh. Mosaic floor in two communicating rooms, with fragmentary inscriptions. (1) Eutropius chamber: Border: *A1-A6-B2-H6* (arranged as border, in squares *G2* and *I4*). Field: Quatrefoil. Fragmentary inscription: ΕΥΤΡΟΠΙΟΥ. (2) Ulpian chamber: Border: *A1-A6-B2*. Field: Circle formed by *B2-A6*—inscription in *A2*: [Ο]ΥΛΠΙΑΝΗ [ΨΥΧΗΣ Ω ΣΕ. . .

In centre quatrefoil (two leaves destroyed) inscribed: ΕΥ ΤΥΧΙ

In corners of circle twice *I14*, once kantharos and cup (?).

No. 290(2) has been transferred to the Palestine Museum, Jerusalem.

291. South-east of summit, Hakaret es Sidr. Border: in *A2* acanthus scroll. Inside medallions: bird and fruit, man shooting arrow at flying animal. Also sprigs *F3* arranged crosswise. In circles, flowers with crosses (Cf. 98, 344, 347) and vine branches. In interstices, diamonds.

Dating: Crowfoot considers No. 287 as not earlier than the fourth century; No. 288 of the sixth, with the fifth century as the earliest possible date; No. 290 as containing geometrical motifs popular in the fifth and sixth centuries; No. 291 of the sixth.

Bibl.: Crowfoot in *QSt.*, 1931, p. 141 f., Pl. II, Fig. 4; *id.* in *QSt.*, 1932, pp. 20-34.

292-4. SABBA (MASADA). XXVI. O. Z.

292. (1) Mosaic fragment of small black cubes (Louvre Museum, AO. 5981 b), 9 × 14 cm.

(2) Mosaic fragment of white, red, and black cubes, forming a kind of scroll, 16 × 33 cm. (Louvre Museum, AO. 5981 c).

Bibl.: Rey, *Voyage dans le Haouran*, Paris, n.d., p. 290. Villefosse, *Notice*, No. 54. Dussaud, *Monuments*, p. 61.

293. Four chambers paved with mosaics.

Bibl.: Tristram, *Land of Israel*, p. 303 f.

294. South of Byzantine chapel—pavement with interlacing pattern in white, red, and black. Tesserae scattered, of good quality.¹

Bibl.: Rey, *Voyage dans le Haouran*, p. 291; de Saulcy, *Voyage autour de la Mer Morte*, Paris, 1853, p. 213 ff.; Lagrange in *RB*, 1894, p. 251; Abel, *Croisière autour de la Mer Morte*, Paris, 1911, p. 123; Schneider in *OChr.*, 1931, p. 252.

Rey, Tristram, Saulcy quoted *in extenso* in Domaszewski-Brünnnow, *Provincia Arabia*, Vol. III, pp. 240 ff.

295-8. SAFFŪRIYA. V. N. h.

295. In ruins of Crusaders' church. Mosaic pavement, now disappeared.

Bibl.: Viaud, *Nazareth*, p. 182; Enlart, *Monum. d. Crois.*, II, p. 349.

296. Outside the church to the north.

¹ For mosaic pavements (?) in the Herodian fortress see Josephus, *B. J.*, VII. 8 (ed. Niese, VII. 290).

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Surround: white. Border: (i) Three rows of cubes. (ii) Row of diamonds. Field: circle (diam.=60 cm.) interlacing with square in which it is inscribed. 'Rainbow' lines. In the circle, inscription in square Hebrew characters black on white:

דָּבִיר / [לֹטֵם] רִבִּי יוֹדָן / [בֶּר תַּנְחֻם] בֶּן רָ / . . . הִדְהָ

*Honoured be the memory of Rabbi Yudan the son of Tanhum the son of . . .*¹

Dating: Clermont-Ganneau, third-fourth centuries, in any case not later than A.D. 325.

Bibl.: Viaud, *Nazareth*, pp. 179-84, 3 Figs.; Clermont-Ganneau in *CAIL*, 1909, pp. 227 ff. (reprinted in the above); *id.*, *Répertoire d'épigr. semit.*, Vol. II, No. 862; Klein, *Jüd.-paläst. Corpus Inscriptionum*, 1920, p. 76 f.; Klein in *Yedi'ot*, II, pp. 36 f.; Dalman, *Orte u. Wege Jesu*, 1924, p. 86; *Ment.*: Dalman in *Pfjb.*, 1912, p. 38; Kohl-Watzinger, *Antike Synagogen in Galiläa*, 1916, p. 146; Alt in *Pfjb.*, 1926, p. 61.

297. Near the old aqueduct: large piece of mosaic found in 1921.

298. Church with mosaic found by Waterman in 1931.

Bibl.: Millar-Burrows in *BASOR*, No. 45, 1932, p. 22.

299. ES SAMŪ'. XXV. K. y.

In a house. Complete plain mosaic pavement of rough work.

Bibl.: Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 218.

300-2. SEILŪN. XIV. N. q.

Danish excavations conducted since 1922.

300. Vaulted room north of Hellenistic bath. Mosaic with pattern in blue, red, and white, apparently fallen from above.

Bibl.: Kjaer in *QSt.*, 1927, p. 207, Pl. VII, 5.

301. 'Pilgrims' Church'.

(1) Apse and bema (4.50 m. deep). Surround: white. Border: *A1-B2-A1*. Bema: vine-stem with grapes and leaves. Apse: γ 6 with heart-shaped leaves, in two colours.² Cubes 1 cm. sq.

(2) Nave: 8 × 5.40 m. Surround: white, sprinkled with sprigs *F19*,³ in west and at entrance, border of conventionalized leaves, to east, lozenge, 60 cm. long. Border: *A2-B8-A1*. Field: *H7*, with sprigs *F3* and *F6*.

A few red, blue, and green glass cubes used. In north angle the mosaic has been restored, after a fire.

(3) Narthex, 6 × 2.40 m. Patterned mosaic, of which little is preserved.

(4) Prothesis (7.10 × 4.80 m.). Surround: white. Border: *A2-B7-A2*. Field: two panels, each separated by *A2* from white middle strip. (a) *H7* (the squares 23 cm.) with sprigs *F3*. In centre, in a square with striped border (89 cm. a side), a circle (diam.=82 cm.) with a five-line inscription. Corner of the square in counter-changing broken lines.

¹ Clermont-Ganneau completed: [הַדָּהָה] [רִבִּי] [בֶּן] [תַּנְחֻם] [בֶּן] [רָ] / . . . תְּחִי לָהּ בְּרִכְתָּהּ [ט/בְּלָהָה]

² Cf. note to No. 25.

³ Called by the excavator: 'wine-cups in blue, with red over one line of white, to indicate wine.'

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Inscription:

Ὑπὲρ | ἀναπαύσε|ος Πορφυρίου | καὶ Ἰακκώβου | ἀδελφ(ο)ῦ

*For the repose of Porphyrios and Jacob, a brother.*¹

(b) Strip between the panels: in centre, tree with leaves and fruits, flanked by two stags. The mosaic has been repaired after a fire. The heads of the stags are destroyed and the whole repaired with white mosaic, the old cubes being re-used. To the right and left two fishes (74 × 24 cm. and 61 × 20 cm.). (c) Eastern part of Prothesis: *H*3 with four sprigs arranged crosswise and diamonds alternating in the squares. The square space round the diagonal lines has been laid in dark tesserae.²

For a discussion of the symbolism of (b) see *JPOS*, 1930, pp. 142 ff.

(5) Atrium, 6.50 × 4.45 m., large white cubes, 2 cm. sq.

(6) Hall, 2.35 × 2.10 m., white mosaic.

This church is dated *ca.* 500 on the evidence of coins found, supported by historical evidence.

302. Basilica on spot called el-Habs.

Nave: Border: acanthus scroll³ followed by 'rainbow' line. Field: *H*5, in which one of the two lines forming the hexagons consists of *B*2 framed in *A*2. The circular and octagonal medallions are bordered by *A*4. The hexagonal panels have been mutilated.⁴ The round medallions show: *I*4 twice repeated in the same medallion; two interlacing lines passing over and under; *I*8. Some of the rhombs between the hexagons contain *I*9 *a*, others interlacing lines. Cubes 5 mm. sq.

Bibl.: Kjaer in *JPOS*, 1930, pp. 130-49, 161-3, Figs., Pl. III; *id.* in *QSt.*, 1931, pp. 79-86, 17 Figs.; *id.* *Tilskueren*, 1930, pp. 386-395, Figs.; *id.* *I det hellige Land*, 1931, p. 55, Figs. 44-50, 58; Rücker in *HL*, 1933, p. 8 f. *Ment.*: McCown in *BASOR*, 1930, No. 37, p. 12; Mallon in *Biblica*, 1929, p. 373.

303-4. SHAFĀ 'AMR. v. l. h.

303. Church of the Dames de Nazareth. Many tesserae found in laying a pavement.

304. South of village, building 35 × 22 paces—within, many tesserae scattered on the ground.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 412 f; Enlart, *Monum. d. Crois.*, II, p. 89.

305. SH. MADHKŪR. XXI. J. v.

Above the cave considerable ruins with circles of mosaics.

Bibl.: Séjourné in *RB*, 1895, p. 268.

¹ This might mean his natural brother, his brother in a monastery, or his brother in a corporation. Cf. Vincent-Abel, *Emmaüs*, p. 199, and No. 346.

² Cf. the somewhat similar arrangement in the Roman building in the east market of Miletus (*Milet*, I, 7, Pls. VI and VII) dated to middle of third century (p. 69), and *Syria*, 1920, p. 224, fig. 81, Pl. XXI.

³ Similar to the scroll of the Orpheus mosaic, No. 133. The pavement resembles one of Madaba, dated 608 (*RB*, 1897, p. 652).

⁴ The panels probably contained images of living beings; the round medallions, whose decoration is geometric, escaped mutilation.

306. SHELLĀL, SOUTH OF GAZA.

Discovered in May 1917. Now at the Australian War Memorial, Melbourne, to be transferred to Parliament Building, Canberra.¹ Fragmentary, original measurements 15 × 8 m.

Foundations: thin layer of white cement over layer of concrete resting on pebbles.

Surround: white, with one line on which are strung alternately circles and diamonds. Border: *A19*, the squares filled with flowers, birds, vases, fishes,² fruit. In square above inscription at entrance, the remains of a human head³ were observed. Field: vine-stem with tendrils, grapes, and leaves growing out of amphora and flanked by two peacocks. The vine-stem forms 44 medallions⁴ arranged in rows of five, of which 24 are preserved. In the central vertical row are represented: a double basket with two birds perching on it, a basket with fruit,⁵ a vase, a bird-cage, another basket. In each of the horizontal rows are animals in pairs turned to the central panel: first row above vase: lambs and goats; second: guinea-fowl and cocks (?); third: tiger (or leopard) and lion; fourth: dove (?) and flamingoes; fifth: dogs pursuing animals (left: hare, right: gazelle).⁶ The mosaic is of marble cubes of many colours, several reds, green (malachite?), yellows, and browns.

Two inscriptions in the surround: (a) below panel, at entrance:

... Υμεμαρ ... | ... ιακαν ... | ... ια λιο ... | ... κετων ... | λλωδε | υτου | ηως | τουνε
| ος.

(b) above the panel, in tabula ansata:

+ Τόνδε τὸν νεὸν λαφιλεῖ [ψηφώσει διεκός] | μῆσαν ὃ τε ὀσιώτ(ατος) ἡμῶν ἐ[πίσκ(ο-
πος) ...] | καὶ ὁ θεοφιλ(έστατος) Γεώργιος ὁ π[ρεσβ(ύτερος) καὶ παραμο-] νάριος⁷ ἐν τῷ
βκχ ἔτει κατὰ [Γαζαίους ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος) 1-].

This temple have decorated with rich mosaics our most holy bishop . . . and the most pious George, priest and sacristan in the year 622 according to the era of Gaza, in the 10th year of the indiction.

Lagrange: l. 1 ὠκοδόμησαν, l. 3 δουκενάριος.

Below the inscription a burial was found.

Date: 622 of Gaza = A.D. 561-2.

Bibl.: Lagrange in *RB*, 1917, pp. 569-72; *QSt.*, 1917, p. 150; *RB*, 1918, p. 595 f.; Briggs in *Burlington Magazine*, 1918, pp. 185-9, Pl.; Petrie in *AE*, 1922, p. 97, Pl. *Ment.*: Clermont-Ganneau in *CAL*, 1919, p. 81; Petrie, *Decorative patterns*, *BW*, 8; Alt in *ZDPV*, 1929, pp. 99-104.

¹ I am indebted for this information to Mr. Alan Rowe.

² Briggs: two halves of a fish, which is borne out by the drawing in *AE*.

³ Thought to be the head of Christ.

⁴ The mosaic resembles in this and in many other details the Armenian mosaic at Jerusalem (43 medallions). Cf. No. 132.

⁵ This basket is almost exactly like the one in the Armenian mosaic.

⁶ Cf. the arrangement of Nos. 117 (2), 132 and the mosaic of SS. Cosmas and Damian, Jerash (Crowfoot, Pl. X) dated A.D. 533.

⁷ For παραμονάριος see Vincent-Abel, *Emmaüs*, p. 199, n. 1, 200, n. 1.

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306A. ES SIMYĀ. XXI. K. X.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Petrie, *Tell el Hesy*, p. 59.

307. SUHMĀTĀ. III. N. e. (Cf. No. 359.)

On eastern bank of the village pool, white mosaic pavement. Four fragments preserved. Maximum measurements: 13.60×4.20 m. 18 cubes to 10 cm. sq.

308-9. TABOR. VI. O. i.

308. Greek Orthodox church. Room $4 \times 5-6$ m., paved with coarse black and white cubes forming a big circle and lozenges.

Bibl.: de Vogüé, *Les Églises de la Terre Sainte*, Paris, 1860, p. 353; Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 144 f.; Meistermann, *Thabor*, Paris, 1900, p. 134.

309. Franciscan property.

(1) In crypt: great quantities of coloured tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 147; Enlart, *Monum. d. Crois.*, II, pp. 389, 391.

(2) Remains of baptistery. Double border, with curvilinear designs of black and white cubes.

(3) Right and left of (2), two white and black pavements.

Bibl.: Meistermann, *op. cit.*, pp. 136, 140; Horning, p. 120.

(4) Fragment of border *B 12*, now in Franciscan Museum at Nazareth.

Bibl.: C. S. Fisher in *Mus. Journal*, 1924, p. 187.

310. TABSUR. X. I. O.

Remains of a cistern built of small stones in white mortar with a tessellated pavement.

Bibl.: *Ment.*: *SWP*, II, p. 143, 348.

311. ET TAIYIBA. XIV. N. v.

Remains of church below the Greek Orthodox chapel. Fragmentary. Border: *B 7*. Field: *71* with *I 4* within a circle.

Dating: Schneider, end of the fifth or beginning of the sixth century.

Bibl.: A. M. Schneider in *Oriens Christianus*, III, 6, 1931, p. 20, Fig. 8.

312. TALHŪM. VI. Q. g.

Excavated by the Custodia della Terra Santa in 1921. Octagonal building south of the synagogue. Three mosaic pavements one outside the other.

(1) Black and white borders. Field: concentric rings of white cubes round small black dots.

(2) Badly preserved pavement showing a floral motif: stalks with red liliaceous flowers converging towards the centre. Restored with white mosaic. In north-east corner, a bird, supposed to have been made by the restorer.

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(3) Central octagon: (a) Border: *A1-A9-B9* (with diamonds in interstices)—*A2*—yellow line. Field: *73* with sprigs, *F26* within each scale. (b) In the centre, a circle 1.65 m. in diam.: a peacock, with his tail spread out.

Dating: Orfali suggested that the mosaics were connected with the church erected in that place in A.D. 351.

Bibl.: Orfali, *Capharnaüm et ses ruines*, 1922, pp. 104-5, 107, Pls. XI-XII. *Ment.*: Horn-
ing, p. 121; Mallon in *Biblica*, 1922, p. 272; Dalman in *Pfbb*, 1922-3, p. 64; J. Garrow
Duncan in *QSt.*, 1926, p. 19.

313. TALL ED DAUDAHĀN. VIII. J. k.

White tesserae.

314. TALL EL HĀJJ HARB. XX. G. x.

Remains of tessellated pavement of square plain tesserae.

315. TALL EL ITHLA. XVIII. P. s.

Tesserae.

Bibl.: Clermont-Ganneau in *QSt.*, 1874, p. 170; *SWP*, III, p. 184.

316. TALL JALJŪL. XVIII. P. s.

Tesserae on a terrace in the middle of the ruin.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, I, p. 117.

317. TALL JAMMA. XXIII. D. y.

Fragments of four mosaic pavements uncovered in connexion with the excavations of the British School of Archaeology in Egypt in 1926-7, one-quarter mile south of the site.

Pattern: interlinked small and large circles; some pavements had a simple plait-pattern border.

Bibl.: Flinders Petrie, *Gerar*, 1928, p. 24.

318. TALL JUDAIYIDA. XX. I. x.

Small patch of mosaic, in white and red tesserae, 2.5 cm. sq.

Bibl.: Bliss in *QSt.*, 1900, pp. 92 f.; Bliss, Macalister, Wünsch, *Excavations in Palestine*,
London, 1902, p. 46. *Ment.*: V(incent) in *RB*, 1900, p. 450.

319. TALL KAISĀN. V. L. g.

Scattered tesserae.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 426.

320. TALL QAIMŪN. VIII. L. j.

North of main road. Mosaic pavement of large white tesserae.

321. TALL ES SAMAK. V. J. h.

(1) Big tesserae, scattered on site.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Samarie*, II, p. 275.

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(2) Fragment of mosaic pavement found on sea-shore, 60 m. south-west of the base of the tall. 2.25 m. × 70 cm. Surround: white. Border: *Az*. Field: *HI* with diamonds in each square. Colours: white, red, and yellow. 25 cubes to each 10 cm. sq.

322. TALL ESH SHEIKH, SOUTH OF GAZA.

Fragments of mosaic of black and white tesserae, 5–7 mm. sq., laid on foundations of white plaster, which again were laid on white mortar.

Bibl.: Schumacher in *QSt.*, 1886, p. 188.

323. TAMRA. IX. O. j.

Pavement of water-tank 50 m. north-east of spring. White and grey tesserae, ca. 27 in 10 cm. sq. Existing fragment ca. 1 m. × 60 cm.

Bibl.: *Ment.*: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 125.

324. TARFĪN. XIV. M. r.

South of the khirbat, remains of a church with tesserae scattered over the ground.

Bibl.: Abel in *JPOS*, 1928, p. 52.

325. TIBNA. XIV. L. q.

Vestibule of tomb, paved with mosaics, with rectangular pattern.

Bibl.: de Saulcy, *Voyage en Terre Sainte*, II, p. 231.

326. UMM ER RŪS. XVII. K. u.

Church. Pavement with white field.

(1) Choir and apse. Amphora with double vine-trellis from which a bunch of grapes and a leaf issue. Above it, Greek cross.¹ Below the right horizontal arm: *Κυρ(ι)ου'ιωάννου*, + *Of Saint John*.² In the other quarters round the cross, in Syriac writing: *mārā yōhanā yōnā kāhēn*, *Saint John*, *Jonas Priest*.³ Above the cross, *I4*. Round the place of the altar, sprigs in a row in the white field; in corners, sprigs arranged crosswise.

(2) Nave: panel (*a*) *J5*; panel (*b*) above (*a*): large cross filled with a row of interlacing circles. At the end of each arm, squares with similar smaller crosses. Below the horizontal arms: Left: square, set on diagonal, inside a circle, inside that circle another square set on side, inside that square another circle. Each pair of circle and square interlaced.⁴ Right: circle in square. Inside that circle two squares with equal sides, one set on diagonal, the other on side; within the two a smaller circle; all the figures interlaced with several loops.

¹ The cross is represented as studded with jewels in square and oval settings. Cf. the Henchir-Chigarnia tomb mosaic, *Inventaire*, II. No. 261.

² Abel (*RB*, 1919, p. 247) suggests the reading *Κύρου-'ιωάννου* 'of St. Cyr and St. John', the two Egyptian martyrs.

³ According to a note in *Biblica*, l.c., the Greek part of the inscription and the cross, save the arms, have been destroyed since.

⁴ For this kind of interlacement cf. the mosaic in S. Maria Maggiore, Capua (fifth century), and a miniature A.D. 527 (Cabrol-Leclercq *s. v. Capua*, col. 2075, fig. 2054).

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(3) Intercolumnar space: Left: *H*3 with diamonds within squares. Right: three interlaced circles in a row, with *I*4 inside each.

(4) Side aisles and entrance to nave: two L-shaped panels with three-line borders. In the short arm of the L, alternating crosses and diamonds in two rows. In the longer arm, indented squares in two rows. At end of panel on the outside, three crosses. On the right side the middle cross stands on a triangle. In centre, between the two panels, a circle in a square, with four loops arranged crosswise inside.

(5) Narthex: square filled with knotted bands, in centre a cross.

Dating: Vincent, sixth century.

Bibl.: Vincent in *RB*, 1898, pp. 611-15; *ibid.*, 1899, pp. 454-5, Fig.; Macalister in *QSt.*, 1899, pp. 200 ff., Pl.; other references in Horning, p. 133, to which add Dalman in *PJb.*, 1914, p. 28; Mallon in *Biblica*, 1922, p. 504.

327. WĀDĪ GHAZZA, SOUTH OF GAZA.

Mosaic pavement of white, black, red, and green tesserae found in 1881 and immediately destroyed.

Bibl.: Gatt in *ZDPV*, 1884, p. 2.

328. WĀDĪ EL JEHĀR. XXI. M. W.

On left bank of small gorge. Several pieces of large white mosaic.

329. ZABĀBIDA. XII. N. m.

(1) Fragmentary pavement at the convent, triangular patch preserved. Border: *A*4-*A*2-*B*3-*A*2-meander¹-*A*1. Field: diagonal arrangement of circles (formed by 'rainbow' lines with loops, and *A*4 within) with eight lacings: four connected by *B*2 (four loops in every case) with the other circles, the four others sending out *A*1 lines, interlacing with the borders of the other circles and enclosing square spaces, filled with squares with a black dot in the centre. The squares and the rectangular strips parallel to the guilloche connecting the circles are lined by *A*3 lines. On the border the circles and squares are replaced with half-circles and triangles.

Colours: black, grey, red, yellow, pink. 81 cubes to 10 cm. sq.

Bibl.: *Ment.*: Horning, p. 121; Alt in *PJb.*, 1927, p. 37.

(2) Roughly laid pavement of white and black tesserae, 16 cubes to 10 cm. sq.

330. EZ ZĀHIRIYA. XXV. J. y.

Richly decorated mosaic pavement seen by Dr. Krafft in 1845.²

Bibl.: Ritter, *Erdkunde*, XVI (IV), p. 205 (Vol. III, Part I). Quoted by Mader, *Altchristliche Basiliken*, p. 221. *Ment.*: Petrie, *Tell el Hesya*, p. 59.

¹ A meander occurs in Jerash (Crowfoot, Pl. XIII (a), dated A.D. 464-5). The arrangement of this mosaic seems related to the mosaic at Avenches (*Inventaire*, I, 1392), of the Imperial period. This is the only case known to me of a meander in mosaic pavements of Palestine and Trans-Jordan.

² This pavement is at present destroyed. Only a few white tesserae exist in an area of 1 sq. m. 30 tesserae to 10 cm. sq.

MOSAIC PAVEMENTS IN PALESTINE

331. EZ ZĪB. III. L. e.

In courtyard of Saleh Husein 'Alaya. Broken mosaic pavement in fragments. Rough white tesserae, 11 to 10 cm. sq. Fragments extend over a surface 4×3.50 m.

332. ZIKHRÓN YA'AQÓV. VIII. J. k.

A large building, partly paved with mosaics, found 1887.

Bibl.: Schumacher in *QSt.*, 1887, p. 221.

333. ZIR'ĪN. IX. N. k.

Ruins of old church, transformed into mosque. Many tesserae scattered on ground.

Bibl.: Guérin, *Galilée*, I, p. 136; Enlart, *Monum. d. Crois.*, II, p. 351.

(*To be continued.*)

M. AVI-YONAH.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON A CEMETERY AT KARM ESH
SHEIKH, JERUSALEM. (Vol. I, pp. 3-5)

THE present writer published on Pl. XVII of Vol. I two inscribed tombstones found in the Karm esh Sheikh excavations.

Mr. Marcus N. Tod, University Reader in Greek Epigraphy, Oxford, suggests, in a letter dated the 4th July, 1932, that the inscription on the first stone (Pl. XVII, 2) should be read:

Θ/ΑΡ[Σ]ΙΟΥ/ΚΤΩΡ/ΝΕΟΣ/[Ο]ΥΔΙΣ/- -

and, in accordance with a well-known sepulchral formula, should be completed as follows:

θάρσει Ούίτωρ νέος, οὔδεις [ἀθάνατος].

D. C. B.

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